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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

GEORGE CUST, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1963



ST.ALBANS CITY COUNCIL

C O N T E N T S

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S T. A L B A N S C I T Y

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman Miss E. Toms, M.A., Ph.D., J.P. (Chairman)
Councillor F.W. Bullock (Vice Chairman)
Councillor J.A. Brownlie
Councillor T. Burns
Councillor E. Hudson
Councillor I.A. Parry, M.B.E.
Councillor J.G. Pyne
Councillor W.G. Ranscombe
Councillor W.A. Vincent, Ph.D., B.Sc.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

George Cust, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

L.A. Croft, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

F.W.P. Harmsworth, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspectors.

J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Mrs. K. F. James (Resigned 7th April, 1963)
Secretary

Mrs. A. R. Symons (Appointed 8th April, 1963)
Secretary

Miss B. Prechner
Clerk

R.H. Fox
Public Health Assistant.

Health Department,
15 Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

Telephone: 50421/2

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the City of St. Albans for 1963.

I have presented the Annual Report in the same form as last year, with, in addition to sections relating to the work of the City Council's Health Department, some information on the work of the Divisional Health Services. Although these are County Council Services they are services which play an important part in the health of the children and adults in St. Albans.

The health of the people of the district on the whole was very good, and for details I refer you to the body of the report.

I would like to record my thanks to all the staff, the Doctors, Miss Thornton and the Nursing Staff, Mrs. Taylor and the Home Helps, Mr. Jewell and the Office Staff, Mr. Goddard and his staff, for all their work and help throughout the year. I would also like to say a special thank-you to my colleagues the Family Doctors and my colleagues in the Hospital Service and the Headmasters and Teachers of the town, whose help throughout the year has been invaluable. I also would like to thank the Editor and the Staff of the local press for the help they have given us in the Health Department throughout the year.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity of ~~thanking~~ you, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, for all the consideration you have given me and members of my staff throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE CUST

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	50,500
Area (in acres)	5,129
Number of Inhabited houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	15,571
Shops with living accommodation	265
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	<u>64</u>
	15,900
Rateable Value	<u>£2,961,086</u>

Vital Statistics

Live Births -	
Number	953
Rate per 1000 population	18.9

Illegitimate Live Births -	
Number	51
Rate % of total live births	5.35

Stillbirths -	
Number	13
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	13.5

Total Live and Stillbirths	966
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Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) -	
Number	18
Rate per 1000 live births	18.9

Infant Mortality Rate -	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	18.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate	
live births	18.9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate	
live births	19.6

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
Number	12
Rate per 1000 total live births	12.6

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	11
Rate per 1000 total live births	11.5

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate -

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week) 24
 Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths 24.8

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) NIL

Deaths

Number of Deaths 591
 Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population 11.7

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made. Applying these two factors to the crude rates gives the following results:-

Crude Birth Rate	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
18.9	18.7	11.7	12.2

Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rate since 1947

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
1947	12.6	1947	17.9	1947	33.0
1948	10.2	1948	17.2	1948	19.2
1949	11.5	1949	18.2	1949	13.1
1950	11.3	1950	16.3	1950	33.3
1951	12.0	1951	16.4	1951	27.6
1952	10.6	1952	16.5	1952	27.1
1953	11.5	1953	15.6	1953	29.9
1954	10.8	1954	15.4	1954	18.5
1955	10.3	1955	15.9	1955	15.2
1956	11.0	1956	16.3	1956	15.8
1957	10.9	1957	15.5	1957	15.0
1958	10.5	1958	16.9	1958	22.3
1959	11.5	1959	17.6	1959	16.3
1960	10.8	1960	19.3	1960	13.7
1961	11.6	1961	16.5	1961	8.5
1962	10.8	1962	18.4	1962	15.1
1963	11.7	1963	18.9	1963	18.9

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	14
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4	3
16. Diabetes	2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	49	46
18. Coronary disease, angina	55	44
19. Hypertension	6	8
20. Other heart disease	24	42
21. Other circulatory disease	13	17
22. Influenza	3	1
23. Pneumonia	20	17
24. Bronchitis	25	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	2	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	5	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	4
34. All other accidents	4	11
35. Suicide	2	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Totals	300	291

Vital Statistics, 1963 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	18.2
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	17.3

Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	12.2
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	20.9
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.28
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	14.2
Peri-Natal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	29.3

This Table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1963.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1963 are as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory						
Tuberculosis	2,027	586	2,613	89	24	56
Other Tuberculosis	168	181	349	7	7	7
Cancer of Lung						
and Bronchus	20,742	3,680	24,422	908	152	519
Other Cancer	34,438	43,520	77,958	1,508	1,799	1,658

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS - ST. ALBANS CITY

There was a further increase in the birth rate in 1963, the birth rate increasing from 18.4 to 18.9 per 1000 of estimated population, giving us an extra 27 births during the year. This puts extra work on the already busy domiciliary and hospital midwives. The National Birth Rate of 18.2 can be compared with our adjusted birth rate of 18.7. The number of illegitimate births in the City rose from 46 in 1962 to 51 in 1963, the percentage of illegitimate births rising from 5.0 to 5.35. There were five less stillbirths in 1963 which, with the increase in the birth rate, resulted in our stillbirth rate dropping from 19.1 in 1962 to 13.5 in 1963. (Stillbirth rate in England and Wales was 17.3.)

There was an increase in the number of infants dying under the age of 1 year. There were 18 compared with 14 in 1962. This gave an infant mortality rate of 18.9 compared with 15 the previous year. (England and Wales infant mortality rate was 20.9.) The causes of death are as follows:-

Age at Death

Cause of Death	Under 1 Wk.	Under 2 Wks.	Under 3 Wks.	TOTAL under 1 Mth.	Under 3 Mths.	Under 6 Mths.	Under 9 Mths.	Under 12 Mths.	TOTAL under 1 year
Prematurity	5			5					5
Congenital Malformations	3		1	4	4				8
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	1			1					1
Pneumonia and Upper Respira- tory Tract Infection					1	1			2
Birth Injury	2			2					2
Total	11	-	1	12	5	1	-	-	18

Of these children, 12 died before they were a month old, compared with 11 in 1962. This gave a neo-natal mortality rate of 12.6, compared with a neo-natal mortality rate of 11.9 in 1962. Of the 12 children who died in the first month of life, 11 of them died during the first week of life, this gave an early neo-natal mortality rate of 11.5 in 1963, compared with 10.8 in 1962. If, however, we consider the peri-natal mortality rate, which is an overall figure considering stillbirths and deaths under one week, (this, therefore, includes nearly all deaths associated with diseases or disorders of pregnancy and childbirth), 24 children died giving a rate per 1000 total of live and stillbirths of 24.8, compared with 29.7 in 1962.

DEATHS

591 people of all ages died in the City during 1963, giving a crude death rate of 11.7, and a standardised death rate of 12.2. This is to be compared with a crude death rate of 10.8 in 1962. There is nothing really special about the individual causes of death. Diseases of the heart and arteries, and the cancers, being the most common causes of death. The extra deaths in 1963 as compared with 1962 were mainly heart diseases, pneumonia and bronchitis, and is probably a reflection of the severity of the weather conditions in the early part of the year.

Coronary Disease.

55 men and 44 women died of this disease during the year. I have set out this table showing the ages of death for men and women for this one disease.

Age of Death

35-45		45-55		55-65		65-75		75 +		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2	-	8	1	12	2	22	15	11	26	55	44

The present stage of medical research would lead us to believe this is one of the preventable diseases. This disease causes death more commonly, and at a younger age, in men than woman, in those who are obese and overeat, take insufficient exercise, smoke cigarettes, and are subjected to mental stresses and strains, than in those who are thin, take a reasonable amount of physical exercise, are non-smokers, and who deal better with their mental stresses and strains.

Cancers. 108 people died of cancers in 1963, and this Table shows the ages of men and women who died from cancers in various sites.

		25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+	Total
Stomach	Male	-	1	1	2	1	4	13
	Female	-	-	-	1	1	2	
Lung	Male	-	2	3	5	4	3	19
	Female	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Breast	Female	-	1	4	4	3	4	16
Uterus	Female	-	-	1	2	1	1	5
Bladder	Male	-	-	-	2	-	1	5
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Rectum	Male	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Oesophagus	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Large Intestine	Male	-	-	-	-	4	2	10
	Female	1	-	-	-	1	2	
Prostate	Male	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
Pancreas	Male	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brain	Male	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Small Intestine	Male	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sarcoma	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Lymph Glands	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Female	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Skin	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Unknown	Male	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
	Female	1	-	-	1	1	1	
Gall Bladder	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Liver	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Large Bowel	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Ovary	Female	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
Kidney	Male	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
	Female	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Throat	Male	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Spinal Cord	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	-	-	-	1	-	-	

Lung Cancer which was the most common of the cancers, with 19 deaths, showed a very welcome fall from the 33 deaths in 1962. The association between this disease and smoking should by now be very well known.

Accidental Deaths.

There were 8 deaths due to road and traffic accidents of citizens of the town during the year, and 15 people died from accidents other than road traffic accidents.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Bricket Wood - The Scout Hut,
Black Boy Wood.

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Vaccination & Immunisation	3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion.

Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2.30-4 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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Harpenden - 40 Luton Road
(Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic	Mondays - 9.30-11.15 a.m. (By appointment)
Vaccination & Immunisation	2nd Wednesday in month - 9 a.m.- 12 noon. (Dr. attends)
Speech Therapy	Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m. (By appointment)
Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Dental	Tuesdays - 10.30-12 noon; 2-4 p.m. Fridays - 10.30-12 noon. (By appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School,
Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Wednesdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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Harpenden - Southdown,
Methodist Church Hall.

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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London Colney - Primary School,
Alexander Road.

Speech Therapy	Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m. (By appointment)
Vaccination & Immunisation	Fridays - 9.30-12 noon. (Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)
Infant Welfare	Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends 1st & 3rd)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2.30-4.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Mondays - 1.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends)

St. Albans - Mandeville Health
Centre,
Mandeville Drive.
Telephone 50471.

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Thursdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends)

Dental

Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon: 2-4 p.m.
(By appointment)

Immunisation & Vaccination

4th Thursday - 9.30-12 noon.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health
Centre,
High Oaks.
Telephone 56994.

Infant Welfare

Wednesdays - 1.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends 1st and 3rd)

Speech Therapy

Tuesdays - 9.30-12.30 p.m.

Dental

Monday p.m. (weekly)

Thursday - a.m. and p.m. (weekly)

Friday - a.m. and p.m. (weekly)
(By appointment)

St. Albans - Wellington Court,
Bricket Road.
Telephone 50421/2.

Immunisation and Vaccination
and Minor Ailments.

Mondays - 9-12 noon.

(Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)

Dental

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.: 2-5 p.m.

Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)

Orthoptic

Tuesday - 1st, 3rd, 5th - 9-12 noon:
2-4.30 p.m.

Wednesday - 2-4.30 p.m.

Thursday - 9.30-12 noon: 2-4.30 p.m.

Ophthalmic
Speech

Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.

Thursday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday - 1.30 -
4.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Wellington Court (continued)

Antenatal	Wednesday - 2-4 p.m.
Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Friday - 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. attends Friday) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health
Centre,

Cell Barnes Lane.

Telephone 53025.

Infant Welfare	Monday - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	Thursday - 9.30-12 noon (By appointment)
Speech	Monday 9.30-12 noon (By appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Centre,
Marshalswick Estate.

Telephone 57041.

Infant Welfare	Monday and Friday - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st and 3rd Tuesday - 2-4 p.m. (By appointment)
Speech	Friday - 10-12 noon (By appointment)
Antenatal	Thursday - 2-4 p.m.
Dental	Tuesday - 10-12 noon: 2-4.30 p.m. Thursday - 10-12 noon. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Watford Road,
Congregational Church
Hall.

Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Fridays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road.
Telephone 52211.

V.D. (Women)	Tuesday - 5-7 p.m. Friday 2 - 4 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesday - 5-7 p.m. Friday 10 - 12 noon.
Post-Natal	Wednesday - 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Monday - 2 p.m. (St. Albans patients)

Sandridge - Parish Hall

Infant Weighing	2nd and 4th Tuesday - 2.30-3.30 p.m.
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Shenley - Village Hall

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall,
East Lane.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Fridays - 2.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. attends 3 p.m.)

The original plan for the provision of Health Centres in and near the City is approaching fruition. The new Health Centre at Mandeville School was opened in May 1962, Skyswood in February 1963 and Cunningham Hill in November 1962. These give, along with the new Health Centre to be built as part of the new Civic Centre, a very good cover for the County Health Services in the City and its immediate surroundings.

It is difficult to estimate when the Civic Centre clinic will be opened, but I hope in 1965. When the new Clinic is built, Wellington Court will be demolished, and on the site thereof, will be erected a new Day Nursery. This is certainly the most suitable site that could possibly be found for a Day Nursery, and will at last solve the problem of dispensing with the present Day Nursery at Fleetville. I would like to record my thanks to the City Council for their consideration in allowing us to continue the use of Fleetville for so long.

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:-

The allocation of beds is as follows:-

Beds	Normandy Road Wing	Mid Herts Wing	Total
Surgical	104	-	104
Medical	-	79	79
Paediatric	25	15	40
Geriatric	77	-	77
Maternity	29	-	29
Gynaecological	26	-	26
Infectious Diseases	18	-	18
Special Care Babies	7	-	7
Recovery	12	-	12
Private - Section 5	-	4	4
Section 4	-	6	6
	298	104	402

In-Patient discharges	8,326
Total Out-Patient attendances	49,879
Casualty	21,311
X-Ray Department	58,331
Physiotherapy Department	48,706

HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of beds	736	Psychiatric
No. of discharges	1,176	

Out-Patients

No. of new patients	102
No. of attendances	607

Day Patients

No. of new patients	130
No. of attendances	4,759

X-ray department 644 units

Physiotherapy department 2,973 attendances

Occupational Therapy Department

New patients	596
attendances	36,171

HIGH WICK

Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	3

Housing

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the Council. A points scheme is used, and in addition, all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health can then allocate additional points on medical grounds.

Section C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	19
Whooping Cough	52
Measles	776
Pneumonia	3
Food Poisoning	1
Infective Hepatitis	3
Dysentery	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

Measles

1963 was an epidemic year for measles (epidemics of measles usually occur every other year) and 776 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

52 cases were notified, the majority of these children had not been immunised against the disease.

FOOD POISONING 1963

The unusual outbreak of food poisoning at a primary school in the City is described on page 13 of the School Health Section.

Undulant Fever

Three cases of Undulant Fever were reported in the City of St. Albans in the latter part of the year. On investigation these cases were all infected by drinking farm bottled milk distributed by one of the large dairy firms in St. Albans City and St. Albans Rural District. This milk was sold as tuberculin tested **farm** bottled milk and was not pasteurized. Epidemiological investigations showed that cows at the local farm providing the milk had been having abortions and a pasteurization order under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General Regulations) 1959 was served on the farmer and dairy, saying that no milk shall be sold for human consumption from this source within the City of St. Albans until it has been treated in such a way as to secure that it was safe. Subsequent bacteriological investigations showed that the raw milk from this farm did contain Brucella Abortus germs. Raw milk from this farm still (July 1964) contains Brucella Abortus organisms and the **pasteurization** order is still in force. This is a very difficult disease to control and what is needed is an eradication policy by the Ministry of Agriculture or all milk should be

pasteurized. No matter how often local health departments or the County Council sample raw milks, which are being sold to the public, there is always a six weeks' interval before the bacteriologist's report is available, and during this time, of course, people can be infected. Pasteurized milk and sterilized milk is completely safe.

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1963 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the St. Albans City.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years		1				1
5 - 14 years			1		1	
15 - 24 years				1		1
25 - 44 years	1	2		1	1	3
45 - 64 years	6	1	1		7	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	4	2	2	9	6

During the year there were 9 respiratory (6 male and 3 female) cases transferred into the Area, and 46 cases were removed from the register.

The state of the tuberculosis register at the 31st December 1963 was as follows:

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
212	140	15	18	385

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the City of St.Albans

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-fifth Annual Report on the work of my Department for the year 1963.

The Public Health Inspector is concerned primarily with our environment; in particular with the elimination of unsatisfactory conditions in our homes and workplaces, the purity of the food we eat and the air we breathe.

Much attention has been given to hygiene and the handling of food in all types of food premises and, generally speaking, satisfactory standards were maintained, although in the case of one restaurant it was necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

Requests for talks on the work of the Department and for lectures on Clean Food have increased and the interest shown by those attending is most encouraging.

Although there are no slaughterhouses in the City, meat inspection by members of the staff is carried out on one day each week at Sandridge Slaughterhouse under the standing arrangement with St.Albans Rural District Council.

I would like to express my appreciation of the efficient and courteous manner in which the members of the staff have carried out their many duties, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support throughout the year.

I am,
your obedient Servant,

R.E.C. GODDARD
Chief Public Health Inspector

INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

Dwelling Houses	207
Complaints reported to Department	258
Complaints re rats and mice	381
Complaints re flies, ants, bed bugs, woodworm, etc.	93
Infectious disease and contacts	59
Disinfestation of verminous premises	4
New Council Houses sprayed prior to occupation	-
Council Houses sprayed prior to re-occupation	27
Common Lodging houses	6
Factories and workplaces	123
Cinemas and public halls	5
Rats and mice	2892
Drains examined and/or tested	268
Smoke observations	71
Tents, vans and sheds	89
Licensed premises	44
Interviews	289
Food premises (see later section)	736
Miscellaneous visits	474
Revisits to premises under notice (P.H.Acts)	699
Revisits to premises under notice (H.Acts)	227
Swimming Baths	26
Shop Acts	52
Public Market and food stalls	1394
Pet Shops	5
Water-cress beds	14
Mobile Shops	27
Factory canteens	24
School canteens	7
Noise Nuisances	10
Houses let in lodgings	101
Atmospheric pollution measurements	608

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 766, and 192 preliminary and 21 statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices, the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

Damp walls	66
Defective roofs, spoutings and down pipes	113
Defective floors, walls and ceilings	60
Defective window frames and sash cords	46
Drains cleared and/or repaired	75
Drains connected to sewer	8
New W.C's provided	4
W.C. compartments repaired	23
W.C. pedestals provided	18
W.C. cisterns provided or repaired	28
Dustbins provided	31
Offensive accumulations	5
Foodstore provided or repaired	6
Chimney and stack repaired	10
Yards and passages paved or repaired	4
Animals - Nuisances abated	3
Contraventions remedied in shops	39
Contraventions remedied in food premises	31
Miscellaneous	134
Hot water supplies	18
Wash-hand basins supplied	17
Factories	27

DISINFECTION

Fifty-nine enquiries were made with regard to infectious diseases and to contacts from other infected areas.

Disinfection of rooms was carried out following cases of infectious diseases and in connection with cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished

In clearance areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	4	4
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

NOT in clearance areas

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec.17(1) Housing Act 1957	10	-	-
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	-	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	-	-	-

B. Unfit Houses Closed

(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	1	1	1
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(11) After informal action by local authority	208	-
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	19	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	4	-
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	-	-

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of Year	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17(2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
(15) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	Number of Houses	Number of occupants of houses in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Order, purchased in the Year	-	-

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the City and these have been well conducted.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year under review the City Council approved the renewal of licences in respect of the stationing of seventeen caravans, situated as single caravans or in small groups, in various parts of the City. New licences were granted under similar conditions in respect of three caravans.

The Corporation now owns four sites - one at Abbey Camp, which holds fourteen caravans, one at Folly Lane, which holds ten caravans, one at Drake's Drive, which holds thirty caravans, and one at Cell Barnes Lane, which holds eight caravans.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>				(5) Agricul- tural
	(1) Local Auth- ority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. Business Premises	(4) Totals of Columns (1) (2) & (3)	
1. No. of properties in Local Authority's District	43	15,571	2,542	18,156	7
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	4	331	60	395	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of the survey under the Act	6	700	50	756	7
4. Number of infested proper- ties treated by L.A.	10	611	124	745	-
5. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:-					
(a) Treatment	-	-	3	3	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	12	11	23	-
6. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec.4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-

7. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
8. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-	-

PEST CONTROL

(a) Rats and Mice

The number of complaints received regarding infestations of rats and mice was less than in the previous year. Treatment for the eradication of pests has been carried out in an efficient manner and according to Ministry recommendations, the poison mainly used being 'Warfarin'.

There are sixteen annual contracts for treatment arranged with business organisations, and in addition forty business premises were dealt with on a casual contract basis. Treatments were carried out at ten Local Authority properties, six hundred and eleven dwelling houses, and one hundred and twenty-four other premises (including business premises).

The foul sewer system was treated once during the year, the bait used being oatmeal and 'Warfarin' treated with a mould inhibitor. Only two man-holes showed complete takes, and there were fourteen partial takes.

(b) Verulamium

Treatment for the destruction of rats on the islands at the lake at Verulamium was again carried out in the Summer. There had been a major infestation with loss of eggs and young birds, but judging by the number of young birds seen subsequently, the operation was a success.

(c) Other Vermin - Ants, Wasps, etc.

The rodent operator also made ninety-three visits in connection with ants, earwigs, etc. and dealt with two hundred and ninety wasps nests.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952, and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Four licences were renewed during the year.

CLEAN AIR

The measurement of atmospheric pollution has continued at the stations at Mandeville Clinic and at the Housing Department in Victoria Street. Equipment at a station consists of an electric pump which passes a measured amount of air through a filter paper. By the use of a reflectometer the smoke density reading can be determined. The air then passes through a solution of hydrogen peroxide, which after titration with a solution of sodium borate gives the sulphur dioxide concentration.

In the table below are given the first complete year's readings. Measurements commenced in October 1962, so it is possible to compare the last three months of 1962 with the corresponding months of 1963. Pollution was less in 1963, principally due to warmer weather with a reduction in domestic fires and a less amount of fog.

The Mandeville station is in a mainly residential area and the figures recorded show mainly pollution from domestic chimneys. The Victoria Street station is in a mixed residential and commercial area and the figures recorded are a combination of industrial and domestic smoke.

Emissions of smoke in excess of the Permitted Period Regulations were few and mainly due to temporary breakdowns of ancillary equipment. Whenever undue emissions of smoke are observed, boiler operators are advised on steps to prevent recurrence. There are very few hand-fired boilers remaining in the town; in recent years there has been a big increase in oil firing. Complaints have been received regarding smoke and grit emissions from a hospital chimney serving a hand-fired boiler. Observations confirmed these complaints, and representations have resulted in an undertaking that the boiler will be converted to mechanical firing.

Complaints are received regarding smoke from garden bonfires, which lit by thoughtless people, cause annoyance to neighbours. Offenders are advised to keep fires to a minimum and to ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance to other people.

One application was received for prior approval in accordance with the Clean Air Act 1956 regarding the conversion of a hand-fired boiler to oil firing. The application was approved.

AIR POLLUTION OBSERVATIONS - 1963

Units - Microgrammes/cubic metre of air

AV = Average

HD = Highest Density

<u>Period</u>	<u>Mandeville Clinic</u>				<u>Housing Department</u>			
	<u>Smoke</u>		<u>SO2</u>		<u>Smoke</u>		<u>SO2</u>	
	<u>AV</u>	<u>HD</u>	<u>AV</u>	<u>HD</u>	<u>AV</u>	<u>HD</u>	<u>AV</u>	<u>HD</u>
January	149	357	211	560	209	881	244	1019
February	175	335	216	428	264	545	312	648
March	60	166	100	204	101	268	140	310
April	47	114	76	262	91	202	108	332
May	27	72	47	94	63	142	70	140
June	17	38	43	112	49	113	35	97
July	17	51	42	92	48	94	46	101
August	19	61	27	78	46	135	39	90
September	44	86	58	129	88	197	61	129
October	56	129	69	195	104	213	100	242
November	113	355	119	296	145	378	153	325
December	159	322	189	347	199	407	194	449

<u>1962</u>								
October	73	175	85	193	136	282	143	311
November	116	247	146	289	225	518	226	510
December	164	772	195	867	251	1069	307	1604

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Complaints regarding alleged excessive noise were dealt with as follows:-

Excessive noise from nearby factory

Investigation proved that the noise was caused by a compressor. The management immediately agreed to move the compressor to another part of the factory where the noise would not be so apparent, since when there have been no further complaints.

Excessive noise from a milk depot

The complainant, whilst appreciating that it was impossible to handle churns and crates of milk without causing noise, objected to the hours of delivery and despatch. The management agreed to restrict these hours as far as possible, and the complainant subsequently reported that conditions were greatly improved.

Complaints were received from residents in flats adjacent to a shop, concerning a noisy refrigerator motor. Investigations confirmed that one motor was causing considerable vibration, and the firm concerned are carrying out experiments in order to lessen the annoyance.

SWIMMING BATHS

Water at the Corporation Swimming Baths in Cottonmill Lane is obtained from the main supply of the Colne Valley Water Company.

Regular inspections of the Bath have been carried out and twenty-two samples, eleven from the shallow (inlet) and eleven from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May to September, and all proved to be satisfactory.

In addition, samples were taken during the same period from the pool at St. Albans School, St. Albans High School and Birklands School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

SEWERAGE

With the exception of a few houses connected to cesspools, all properties are on main drainage, the whole of the City being within the area of the West Herts Sewage Board.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Premises

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Grocery and provision shops	108
Bakehouses	28
Cooked food premises (including restaurants, kitchens and cafes)	97
Fish Shops (including fried fish premises)	30
Dairies and milk shops	114
Slaughterhouses and butcher's shops	128

Ice Cream premises	47
Licensed premises	44
Canteens	31
Other food premises	109

As will be seen from the foregoing, regular inspections of food premises have been carried out throughout the year.

These included bakehouses, of which there are thirteen on the register, fish fryers, of which there are three, and hotels and public houses, at four of which structural alterations, including the provision of additional lavatory accommodation, have been carried out.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

All food stalls on the Saturday market have been visited regularly, and the stallholders have co-operated well in the handling and displaying of foodstuffs.

HEALTH EDUCATION

During the year, eight lectures on the work of a Health Department and general hygiene were arranged for various audiences, including social groups, food handlers, home helps, etc.

The estimated number attending was 240.

COMPLAINTS RE FOOD

Seven complaints regarding the condition of various articles of food were investigated during the year.

One complaint referred to three small particles of "foreign matter" which it was alleged had been found in a bottle of milk. The milk had been poured from the bottle into other containers, and the foreign matter subsequently placed on a saucer. The complaint was reported to the Dairy Company and the foreign matter forwarded to them for examination by their laboratory. The report stated that the particles were of a sticky resinous substance. The complaint was reported to the Health Committee, who decided that no further action should be taken.

A complaint regarding the sale of a mouldy meat pie was also reported to the Health Committee, and in this instance a warning letter was sent to the person responsible for the sale.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the retailer of a loaf of bread found to contain a cigarette-end. A plea of 'guilty' was entered on behalf of the defendant, and a fine of £10. was imposed by the Magistrates.

Another complaint alleged that a jar of marmalade contained particles of glass, but the Public Analyst reported that small hard translucent bodies separated from the marmalade dissolved completely in water, and the resulting solution contained cane sugar only.

A complaint was also received that glass had been found in a piece of bread and butter, and that the glass came from the bread. The bread was purchased in St. Albans, taken to the complainant's house at Wheathampstead, and there sliced and buttered. The slices were then taken to Luton, and together with some cold meat were eaten at the home of a relative who was in the act of moving house. In view of the circumstances concerning the bread before the glass was discovered, I arranged for the specimen of masticated bread to be submitted to the Baking Industries Research Laboratories, whose report stated that the type of glass found was that usually associated with jam jars or milk bottles. As jam for the bakery concerned was delivered in tins, and the milk used was of the dried variety also delivered in tins, no further action was taken.

One complaint regarding dark material in a white loaf was found on examination to be fruit. The baking firm confirmed that the loaf came from a batch which had followed the making of fruit loaves, and action was taken to avoid a recurrence.

A complaint was received from the catering staff of a local school that mince beef supplied for school meals, on being cooked, gave off a very strong odour. Fat was skimmed from the pan of cooked meat and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Samples of uncooked mince beef were also submitted to the Public Analyst, who reported that there was no evidence of rancidity in the cooked meat, and that his examination showed that the uncooked meat contained only 57% lean meat and 43% of fat, which in his opinion constituted poor quality meat. The facts relating to the complaint were notified to the County Purchasing Officer.

FOOD POISONING

A mild outbreak of food poisoning at a local school appeared to have been caused by a consignment of minced steak which had been treated with a preparation known as 'Salox', containing nicotinic acid.

The Public Health Committee decided that because at the date of delivery of the meat the dangers of using 'Salox' were not known, and because the suppliers had decided not to use the preparation in future, no prosecution be instituted, but that a letter of warning be sent to the firm concerned.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

Two market street traders were each fined £3. for smoking while handling food, and the proprietor of a restaurant was fined a total of £105. on seven separate summonses alleging contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION

Fifty-eight visits have been made to Sandridge Slaughterhouse in co-operation with St.Albans Rural District Council, and the following have been examined, viz:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
402	280	528	3,023

LICENSING ACT 1961

Following the coming into operation of the above Act, twenty-five club premises were inspected, and in no case could any objection be raised by the local authority to the premises being registered under the above Act.

Under other legislation, attention was drawn in three cases to the need for minor alterations to, and re-decoration of, the premises.

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises

Premises (including seven registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows:-

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	2
Sale of ice cream	192

Regular inspection was made of these premises and, at a number, structural alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for storage of ice cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

(b) Bacteriological Examination

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were very satisfactory.

Of the twenty-one samples examined, nineteen were placed in Grade 1, and two in Grade 2.

(c) Chemical Examination

Four samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order 1953.

PRESERVED FOODS, ETC.

The following premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food:-

Sausages	38
Meat Pressing	1
Meat Pickling	11
Meat Preservation	14
Ham Cooking	14
Meat Pies	2
Sausage Cooking	3
Fish Frying	3
Poultry Cooking	1

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.63 - 3
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.63 - 40

Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949

Number of persons holding at 31.12.63 Dealers' Licences
authorising the use of the special designation
"Tuberculin Tested"

12

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulation 1949

Number of persons holding at 31.12.63

Dealers' (Pasteuriser's) Licences ..	2
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special Designation "Pasteurised"	21
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special Designation "Sterilised"	38

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1963. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and "Pasteurised" milks to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1962.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	18 (52)	18 (37)	- (15)	- (-)	- (-)
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	97 (50)	96 (48)	1 (2)	97 (50)	- (-)
Channel Island S. Devon (Pasteurised)	4 (12)	4 (11)	- (1)	4 (12)	- (-)
Pasteurised	51 (46)	51 (46)	- (-)	51 (-)	- (-)
TOTALS	170 (160)	169 (142)	1 (18)	152 (62)	- (-)

FOOD AND DRUGS

The Public Analyst (Mr. J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.) reports on samples submitted during the year, as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the year ending 31st December 1963, amounted to 144, of which 69 were Formal and 75 Informal. All the Formal samples consisted of Milk.

The following table shows the average composition of the Milk samples, as compared with those submitted during the previous twelve months.

	<u>January 1962</u> to <u>December 1962</u>	<u>January 1963</u> to <u>December 1963</u>
Fat	4.05%	3.97%
Solids-non-Fat	9.02%	8.93%

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a slight decrease in both the average fat content and the percentage of Solids-non-Fat constituents as compared with last year.

All the samples of Milk, with one exception, were up to standard and complied with the Sale of Milk Regulations in respect of their general composition and were free from preservatives.

The Milk sample referred to was one of Farm-bottled Channel Islands milk which showed a 5% deficiency of the statutory minimum requirements of 4% of fat for Channel Islands milk. This deficiency was not due to adulteration but to faulty mixing, as was borne out by follow-up samples examined later.

A miscellaneous selection of samples of various kinds has been examined during the year and these can most conveniently be divided into two categories:-

Foodstuffs Drugs

FOODSTUFFS

Marmalade
Double Cream
Cheese and Tomato Spread
Clotted Cream
Milk Shake Syrup
Sunfresh Orange Drink
Cornish Pasty
Lemon Curd

Potted Beef with Butter
Hot Dog Relish
Almond Flavouring Essence
Blackcurrant Jam
Lancashire Rarebit
Butter Cheese Spread
Cream (Tinned)
Lemonade

Instant Coffee
 Butter
 Table Jelly
 Tomato Pickle
 Minced Turkey
 Cream Cheese
 Buttermilk Drink
 Soured Cream
 Sherry Liqueur
 Orange Squash
 Lemon Squash
 Lime Juice Cordial
 Lemon Barley
 Peppermint Cordial
 Grapefruit Squash
 Lime Jelly Marmalade
 Sugar-free Lime Marmalade
 Roast Beef in Gravy
 Custard Powder
 Mixed Dried Vegetables
 Ilchester Cheese with Beer
 Canned Vegetable Juice

Christmas Pudding
 Desiccated Coconut
 Apple Flakes
 Smetana
 Cottage Cheese
 Sherry
 Dietetic Orange Squash
 Dietetic Lemon Squash
 Dietetic Lime Juice Cordial
 Non-Alcoholic Ginger
 Blackcurrant-flavoured Cordial
 West Indian Marmalade
 Lime Marmalade
 Gelatine
 Mince Pie (Tinned)
 Cream of Chicken Soup
 Beef Steaks (Canned)
 Fynbo Cheese
 Frankfurters
 Marzipan
 Bread Sauce
 Mincemeat

DRUGS

Olive Oil BP.
 Vitamin Yeast Tablets
 Soluble Aspirin Tablets

Liquid Paraffin
 Sweetex
 Saccharin Tablets
 Selaxa

Six samples of Sausages were submitted to me for examination during the year, 3 Beef and 3 Pork, and in the following table I set out the Meat content of these samples.

	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Meat Content</u>
Beef	No. 1	55%
	2	50%
	3	57%
Pork	No. 1	64%
	2	65%
	3	75%

It will be seen from the above table that the Meat contents of all these Sausages are of a high standard. In all the samples of Sausages submitted to me the amount of Sulphur Dioxide Preservative was found to be within the permitted limit.

DRUGS

All the samples of Drugs submitted to me for examination were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia where applicable.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

I examined three samples of Ice Cream sold in the St. Albans district and the following table shows their general composition:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Fat content</u>	<u>Milk Solids other than Fat</u>
No.1 Soft Freeze Ice Cream	6.0%	11.2%
No.2 Dairy Ice Cream	8.8%	14.0%
No.3 Dairy Ice Cream	13.8%	11.3%

The general composition of these Ice Creams was quite satisfactory and fully complied with the standards laid down in the Ice Cream Order. I confirm that the fat in Samples 2 and 3 consisted of butter fat.

TOWN WATER SUPPLY

I have made, as usual, during the twelve months under review, a quarterly examination of the St. Albans Water Supply, and am pleased to be able to report that it continues to possess a high degree of bacteriological purity and is, in every way, suitable to be used both for drinking and other general domestic purposes.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, also submitted to me during the year under review, a number of special samples and I will now refer to these under their respective headings.

MARMALADE

This contained translucent bodies which were thought to be glass. My examination, however, showed them to be large sugar crystals.

WATER FROM THE OLD PADDLING POOL, VERULAMIUM

A bacteriological examination of this sample showed it to be highly impure. I have therefore recommended that some simple form of treatment be employed so as to make it safe for the use of small children who are quite liable to drink the water.

COOKED HAMBURGERS

As a result of food poisoning at St. Adrian's School, samples of cooked Hamburgers were submitted to me for examination. In collaboration with Dr. A.J. Amos, O.B.E., I was able to show that this cooked meat contained per portion more than the largest adult dose of nicotinic acid.

I was also able to examine, via the good offices of the Borough of Heston and Isleworth, a meat additive 'Salox' containing nicotinic acid which I am sure was used in the preparation of the mince meat supplied to the school. The additive is employed to keep the mince meat red and would be quite harmless if used at the low rate recommended.

This case was one of a number which received much publicity and has had the result of an announcement in Parliament on the 19th December 1963, that additions of nicotinic acid to raw meat are to be prohibited. In view of this and other circumstances, I was informed that your Council has decided to take no action other than sending a warning letter to the supplier concerned.

MINCE BEEF

As a result of a complaint about the quality of a delivery of meat to Garden Fields School, a sample of the mince beef supplied was submitted to me for examination. I found a fat content of 43% which I consider to be excessively high. I have therefore given as my opinion that this particular delivery was of poor quality.

FAT FROM COOKED MINCE BEEF

This sample arose out of a complaint about the condition of a delivery of mince beef to a local school. Unfortunately I was not given the opportunity of examining the uncooked meat which I understand had a strong odour. My examination of the fat from the cooked meat shows that it was in a reasonable state so that I was not able to assist in assessing the condition of the delivery.

The last three cases referred to above were all connected with deliveries of meat to schools in the St. Albans area under contract by one firm of butchers.

This is the first Annual Report which I have the privilege of presenting to your Council. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., your

Deputy Inspector, Mr. L.A. Croft, and their colleagues in the Public Health Department, for the valuable co-operation I have received from them.

(Signed) J.D. CURZON

Public Analyst to the
City of St. Albans."

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the City area is served from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of a very small number of houses in proposed Clearance Areas, where the supply is by means of stand-pipes.

Quarterly samples of water from the mains supply of the Colne Valley Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Pigs Kidneys (Imported)	14 lbs.
Pork	80 lbs.
Lambs Livers (Imported)	10 lbs.
Chopped Pork	41 lbs.
Bacon	33 lbs.
Gammon	125 lbs.
Ox Tongue	43 lbs.
Ox Kidneys	28 lbs.
Jellied Veal	108 lbs.
Sausages	19 lbs.
Corned Beef	597 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	146 lbs.
Luncheon Meat	120 lbs.
Stewed Steak	55 lbs.
Ham	275 lbs.
Chickens	32 lbs.
Fish	26 lbs.
Flour	147 lbs.
Sultanas	6 lbs.
Dried Milk	36 lbs.

Tinned Fruit	991 tins
Tinned Vegetables	1015 tins
Tinned Milk	179 tins
Tinned Fish	115 tins
Tinned Soup	19 tins
Miscellaneous	220 tins
Miscellaneous	86 packets
Miscellaneous	47 jars

A P P E N D I X

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	248	123	8	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	4	1	-
	284	131	9	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	9	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Section 110)

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.	33	-	-
) Cleaning	-	-	-
) and	-	-	-
) Washing	-	-	-
Other classes of work	2	-	-
	35	-	-

DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The St. Albans Health Division of the County Council consists of St. Albans City, St. Albans Rural District, Harpenden Urban District and Elstree Rural District, and in the following Report, all the figures and information relate to the Division as a whole.

Local Medical

STAFF

Dr. G. Cust, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Divisional Medical Officer
Dr. P. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Assistant County Medical Officer
Dr. J. Beard, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.	" " " "
	(resigned October 1963)
Dr. D.J. Marsden, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	" " " "
	(Part time - appointed 30.9.63)
Dr. E.G. Davie, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S. (Edin. & Glas.), C.P.H.	" " " "
	(Part time - appointed 21.1.63)
	(Full time - appointed 2.9.63)
Dr. A. Stevenson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	" " " "
Dr. A. Wright, M.B., Ch.B.	" " " "
Mrs. E.M. Jeffries, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., H.V., T.A.	Divisional Nursing Officer (resigned 31.3.63)
Miss B.C. Thornton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., H.V.	Divisional Nursing Officer (appointed 24.4.63)
Miss A.T. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., H.V.	Assistant Divisional Nursing Officer (appointed 16.9.63)

Clerical Staff

Mr. R.E. Jewell	Chief Clerk
Miss D. Windmill	Shorthand Typist
Mrs. J. Gilmore	Senior Clerk
Mrs. J. Callen	Clerk
Mrs. J. Woodsmith	"
Miss R.E. Wren	" (appointed 16.4.63)
Mrs. S. Power	" (Part time)
Mrs. D. Hill	" (app. 21.1.63 res. 22.11.63)
Miss G. Andrews	"
Mrs. R.M. Grant	" (appointed 16.4.63)
Mrs. P. Bennett	" (appointed 16.12.63)
Mrs. D. Bishop	" (Part time)
Mrs. J. Alflatt	" (appointed 1.5.63)

Health Visitors - S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss H. Williams (resigned 25.12.62))	
Miss A. Lewis)	
Miss J. Bushby)	
Miss R. Joyce)	
Mrs. M. Bruce (transferred to Watford 16.12.63)	)	Boreham Wood
Miss M. Winch (resigned 12.10.62))	
Miss B. Buchanan (transferred from Barnet 30.9.63))	
Miss B. Lord (commenced 8.10.63))	
Miss I.P. Burt)	
Miss M. Jenkinson)	
Mrs. C. Appleton (transferred to Barnet 31.8.62)	)	Harpenden
Miss W.J. Lewis (commenced 1.5.63))	
Miss J. Abbott (commenced 30.9.63))	
Mrs. E. Barasi (commenced 28.10.63))	
Miss R. Cooper)	
Miss G. Helyar)	
Miss C. Sachs)	
Miss J. Sharpe)	
Mrs. M. Tattersall	)	St. Albans
Miss S. Woodall)	
Miss O. Barrand)	
Mrs. E. Hanson (resigned 30.8.63))	
Miss B. Reed)	
Miss I. Conduit)	

District Nurses/Midwives/Health Visitors

Miss M. Riches	S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., H.V.
Miss S. Smith	" " " "
Miss V. Greenham	" " " "
Mrs. S. Trudgett	" " " "

District Nurses/Midwives

Mrs. E. Chavannes	S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., H.V.
Miss M. Gilbert	" " " "
Miss R. Allen (resigned July 1963)	" " " "
Miss M. Potter (transferred to Welwyn October 1963)	" " " "
Miss F. Davis (transferred January 1963)	" " " "
Miss E. Holt	" " " "

Miss E. Joyce (transferred to Watford September 1962)	S.R.N., S.C.M.		
Mrs. M. Gunn (appointed September 1963)	"	"	
Miss M. Smith (commenced July 1963)	"	"	Q.N.S.

District Nurses

Miss W. York	"	"	"
Miss R. Mays	"	"	"
Mrs. A. King (transferred to Welwyn May 1963)	"	"	"
Miss B. Rushton	"	"	"
Mrs. M. Clue	"		
Mrs. B. Bateman	"		
Miss L. Lander	"	"	"
Mrs. D. Hardy (transferred to Welwyn July 1963)	"		
Mrs. I. Wakely	"		
Mrs. K. Woodward	"		
Mrs. M. Cooper	S.R.M.N.		
Mrs. K. Healey (commenced May 1963)	S.R.N.		"
Mrs. E. Burrard-Lucas (commenced December 1963)	"	"	

Part Time District Nurses

Mrs. S. Peckett
 Mrs. J. Rogers
 Mrs. M. Hazelwood
 Mrs. D. Hardy
 Mrs. M. Pinney
 Mrs. I. Andrews

Clinic Staff

Mrs. J. Hooper
 Mrs. V. Rogers
 Mrs. M. Nicholls
 Miss A. Thomson
 Mrs. I. Jackson

Night Nurse

Miss J.D. Hodgett, S.E.A.N.

Midwives

Mrs. A. Pollard (commenced November 1962)	)		S.R.N., S.C.M.	
Mrs. V. Powley (commenced August 1962))		"	"
Mrs. D. Hutton (transferred from Stevenage August 1963))			"
Mrs. M. Evans (commenced November 1963)	)	St. Albans	"	"
Miss M. Green	)		"	" Q.N.S.
Miss P. Skinner (resigned 31.5.62))		"	" "
Miss E. Clarke (resigned 14.8.62)	)		S.E.A.N.	"
Mrs. V. Woodward (resigned 6.7.63))		"	"
Mrs. P. Love (commenced October 1963)	)		S.R.N.,	"
Mrs. B. Quick (resigned October 1963))		"	"
Mrs. F. Lindon (resigned July 1963)	)	Boreham	"	"
Miss J. Martin	)	Wood	"	"
Mrs. R. Waslin)		"	"
Mrs. M. Dominy	)	Harpenden		"

Home Help Service

Mrs. P.D. Taylor	Home Help Organizer
Mrs. J. Bowyer	" " "
Mrs. J. Darbyshire	" " "
Mrs. C.E. Moore	Assistant Home Help Organizer (resigned July 1963)
Mrs. P. Askham	Clerk (resigned 31.12.63)
Mrs. A.P. Dickens	Assistant Home Help Organizer (appointed 29.7.63)

Population

The population of the St. Albans Health Division is 140,140; this is the estimated mid 1963 population figure as supplied by the Registrar General. The St. Albans Division is the third largest of the seven health divisions of Hertfordshire and the following population figures will give an indication of the growth of the Division since it was set up some 15 years ago.

YEAR	POPULATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITHIN DIVISION				ST. ALBANS HEALTH DIVISION	HERTFORDSHIRE
	ST. ALBANS CITY	ST. ALBANS RURAL	HARPENDEN URBAN	ELSTREE RURAL		
1949	42130	27340	14550	13660	97680	596010
1950	44200	26830	14750	14000	99780	606640
1951	44240	28490	14500	14960	102190	618700
1952	44700	29010	14650	16700	105060	633700
1953	45060	28980	14710	20260	109010	651500
1954	45430	29150	15040	22080	111700	671700
1955	45310	30200	15200	23580	114290	692000
1956	46660	31540	15640	25650	119490	715000
1957	47290	33060	16020	26640	123010	739800
1958	47880	34480	16500	27470	126330	761200
1959	48630	35930	17100	28520	130180	784000
1960	49180	37090	17360	29260	132890	806040
1961	50080	38300	18380	29120	135880	836960
1962	50450	39210	18960	29490	138110	857200
1963	50500	40180	19800	29660	140140	873870
Increase Percent.	19.9%	47.0%	36.1%	117.1%	43.5%	46.6%

It will be noted that the increase in the Divisional population of 43.5% is in line with the increase for the County as a whole which is 46.6%. The largest increase within the Division has taken place in Elstree Rural District and was due to the setting up of the new community of Boreham Wood.

NURSING SECTION

Mrs. E.M. Jeffries was appointed to an administrative post in Malta in the early spring. Her successor to the Divisional Nursing Officer's post was Miss B.C. Thornton who was the Assistant Divisional Nursing Officer from November 1961. In September 1963, Miss A.T. Roberts arrived in the Division as Assistant Divisional Nursing Officer. Her previous post was District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor at Fairford in Gloucestershire.

District Nurses

One nurse attended a refresher course in Leicester.

Two nurses attended a Mental Health Course at Napsbury.

Red Cross Home Nursing Lectures were given by a district nurse/midwife/health visitor.

A number of student nurses from the City Hospital have been received by members of the staff and given experience of district nursing in urban and rural districts.

Midwives

A new system for the collection of Nitrous Oxide Cylinders and the maintenance of the Gas and Air Machines was devised. The central depot for Boreham Wood is at the Elstree Way Health Centre. Here empty cylinders are taken and exchanged for full ones. The maintenance engineer calls at regular intervals for the servicing of machines which are brought to the depot. This arrangement is working satisfactorily, and obviates the unsuccessful visits made to midwives' houses when they are on their rounds. For the central area the depot is at Wellington Court where a similar system operates.

Two new Relaxation Classes for Expectant Mothers commenced in Cunningham Hill and Skyswood Health Centres. The film "To Janet a Son" is included in the programme and is proving very popular.

One pupil midwife completed her training in the Division at the end of November and has returned to Ghana.

Health Visitors

Following a talk by the Paediatrician from St. Albans City Hospital, a Clinic Rota was formed which is proving of great value to all sections of the health team. Often the Health Visitor can submit report on the home circumstances of many of the children.

The Ascertainment of Deafness Course was attended in Leicester by four Health Visitors of the Division.

The Mental Health Course held at Napsbury was attended by two Health Visitors.

The Night Nursing Service is proving of great value - not only to the patients but also to the relatives who are relieved to have an occasional unbroken night's rest while the night nurse keeps vigil. More General Practitioners are availing themselves of this service for their patients and there have been many letters of appreciation.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

Midwifery

The following table shows the number of births which took place in the Division during 1963. The total number of 2113 includes 29 stillbirths, four of which were delivered at home. The total of 853 domiciliary births represents some 40% of the total number of births occurring in the Division.

513 babies were born outside this Division to mothers who are normally resident in the Division and 115 babies were born in the Division but whose parents normally reside outside the Division. The corrected total number of births therefore, after adjustments for inward and outward transfers is 2,511.

Table (a)

QUARTER	DOMICILIARY		HOSPITAL		NURSING HOME	
	LIVE BIRTH	S/BIRTH	LIVE BIRTH	S/BIRTH	LIVE BIRTH	S/BIRTH
MARCH 1963	239	-	303	9	11	-
JUNE 1963	212	-	326	4	4	-
SEPT. 1963	210	4	310	6	8	-
DEC. 1963	188	-	267	6	6	-
TOTAL	849	4	1206	25	29	-
INWARD TRANSFERS	3	-	448	11	51	-
OUTWARD TRANSFERS	2	-	109	2	2	-

Table (b) below shows the number of expectant mothers who were given Gas and Air Analgesia during the year.

QUARTER	DOMICILIARY		HOSPITAL		NURSING HOME	
	GAS/AIR	TRILENE	GAS/AIR	TRILENE	GAS/AIR	TRILENE
MARCH 1963	201	5	75	189	11	-
JUNE 1963	186	1	72	211	3	-
SEPT. 1963	177	13	63	200	6	-
DEC. 1963	132	17	55	159	6	-
TOTAL	696	36	265	759	26	-

The distribution of confinements throughout the Division during the year was as follows, and of the 851 confinements, the family doctor was present at 163.

Table (c)

DISTRICT	TOTAL CONFINEMENTS	DOCTOR PRESENT
Boreham Wood	164	21
Bricket Wood	20	5
Colney Heath	15	4
Harpenden	84	6
London Colney	45	6
Redbourn	36	14
Sandridge	13	4
St. Albans	397	84
Shenley	25	1
Wheathampstead	25	14
Park Street	27	4
TOTAL	851	163

The domiciliary midwives paid a total of 12,015 visits to mothers after delivery, giving an average of 14 visits per patient.

Other statistics relating to the Midwifery Services in the Division during the year are as follows:-

Number of 1st visits to Expectant Mothers	859
Number of revisits " " "	6232
Antenatal Sessions	395
Antenatal Instruction Classes	93
Early discharges from hospital	164 (within 48 hours)
	595 (after 48 hours)

Health Visiting

During 1963 the following summary of work was carried out by the Health Visitors in the Division.

Visits to Children

	<u>1st Visit</u>	<u>Revisits</u>
Children born in 1963	2607	9008
" " " 1962	3617	5794
" " " 1958/61	8702	8759
	<u>14926</u>	<u>23561</u>

<u>Visits to Aged Persons</u>	<u>1st Visits</u>	<u>Revisits</u>
	288	723

Number of Phenylketonuria Tests	2458
Number of Child Welfare Centres	1271
Number of Medical Inspection Sessions	608
Number of Pre medical Inspections	345
Number of Personal Hygiene Inspections	150
Number of B.C.G. Vaccination Sessions	17
Number of Vaccination and Immunisation Sessions	234
Number of Poliomyelitis Vaccination Sessions	76
Number of Hearing Tests	267

Home Nursing

During 1963 the general nurses carried out the following work.

	<u>1st Visit</u>	<u>Revisits</u>
Medical Cases	1540	46476
Surgical Cases	316	10815
Tuberculosis Cases	14	491
Other Cases	83	-
	<u>1953</u>	<u>57782</u>

Of the 1953 cases visited, 1293 were aged 65 years and over and 38 were under the age of 5 years.

PREMATURE BIRTHS (i.e. live births and still births of 5½lbs. or less at birth)

1. No. of premature live births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

(a) in hospital..... 107

(b) at home and in private nursing homes.. 15

2. No. of premature stillbirths notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

(a) in hospital..... 20

(b) at home and in private nursing homes.. 3

Number of premature births (as adjusted by any notifications transferred in or out of the area).

Weight at Birth	Premature live births												Premature stillbirths	
	Born in hospital				Born at home or in a nursing home				Transferred to hospital on or before 28th day					
					Nursed entirely at home or in a nursing home									
	Total births	Died			Total births	Died			Total births	Died			Born	
within 24hrs. of birth		in 1 and under 7 days	in 7 and under 28 days	within 24 hours of birth		in 1 and under 7 days	in 7 and under 28 days	within 24 hrs. or birth		in 1 and under 7 days	in 7 and under 28 days	in hospital	at home or in a nursing home	
2lb 3oz or less	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Over 2lb 3oz up to and incl. 3lb 4oz	8	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	-
Over 3lb 4oz up to and incl. 4lb 6oz	17	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	1
Over 4lb 6oz up to and incl. 4lb 15oz	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-
Over 4lb 15oz up to and incl. 5lb 8oz	51	2	-	1	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2
Total	107	8	3	1	10	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	20	3

Stillbirth Analysis

Hospitals		Home	
34		4	
Male	Female	Male	Female
20	14	2	2
Primips	11	Primips	1
Multips	23	Multips	3
Under 5½lbs.	21	Under 5½lbs.	2
Over 5½lbs.	13	Over 5½lbs.	2

Infant Deaths

Total Number of Deaths - 45

Males 26
Females 19

<u>Died</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Under 24 hours	5	7
" 48 hours	2	-
" 28 days	9	1
" 1 year	6	7
" 5 years	4	4
26		19

An "At Risk" register was started in 1963 of those babies who needed special follow up with regard to their general development or specific handicap. Of the 420 "at risk" babies born in the Division 42 had congenital malformations.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES 1963 (of children born in 1963)

Congenital Abnormality	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.		Harpenden U.D.		Elstree R.D.		St. Albans Health Division	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 Central Nervous System	2(1)	1(1)				1			2	2
1 Eye & Ear					1(1)				1	-
2 Alimentary System	3		2	1	2	1			7	2
3 Heart and Great Vessels	1	1(1)	1	3(2)		1			2	5
4 Respiratory System					1				1	-
5 Uro-Genital System							1		1	-
6 Limbs	1			2	2	1		1	3	4
7 Other Skeletal		2					1		1	2
8 Other Systems (Muscles) (Skin)	2		1						3	-
9 Other Malformations (Incl. Mongolism)	3	1		1		1			3	3
Totals	12	5	4	7	6	5	2	1	24	18
% of total live births	1.8		1.5		3.2		0.7		1.7	

Figures in brackets indicate number of children who have since died.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

There are 21 Infant Welfare Centres held in the Division, the frequency varying from twice weekly to once fortnightly. Of the 21 centres, 11 are purpose built, and the remainder are held in local village or church halls.

During 1963, there were 33,281 attendances of children at these centres, 22,853 were under 1 year of age, 5,817 were aged between 1 and 2 years and 4,611 were between the ages of 2 and 5 years.

The following table shows the total and average attendances at each centre and the average number of children seen by the Doctor at each centre.

Centre	Total attended	H.V. Session	Dr. Session	Children seen by Dr.	Average Attendances	Average No. seen by Dr.
Elstree Way	2292	-	51	583	45	11.4
Greenacres	1398	30	22	210	27	9.5
Saffron Green	1966	29	24	259	37	10.8
Batford	927	-	23	216	40	9.4
40 Luton Road	3887	27	24	387	76	16.1
Southdown	1163	-	22	257	53	11.7
Cunningham Hill	2112	-	49	568	43	11.6
*Mandeville	897	1	23	368	37	16.0
*Margaret Wix	1402	27	24	401	27.5	17.0
*Park Street	1879	26	23	524	38	23.0
Skyswood	3880	1	94	1116	41	12.0
Wellington Court	1985	2	47	556	40.5	11.8
Wellington Court	1115	53	-	-	21	-
*Bricket Wood	893	-	24	256	37	10.7
*Colney Heath	975	-	24	352	41	14.7
London Colney	2751	28	23	268	54	11.7
*Redbourn	799	24	-	-	33	-
Sandridge	480	24	-	-	20	-
*Shenley	762	-	24	301	31.75	12.5
*Wheathampstead	1222	-	22	293	55.5	13.2
*Watford Road	496	-	24	304	20.7	12.7

*These clinics also carry out immunisations in addition to the usual infant welfare work at each session. The other clinics have separate sessions for immunisation and attendances related to these are not given.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

694 primary vaccinations were given during 1963 and of these 323 were given at Local Health Authority Clinics.

141 Revaccinations were also given and almost all were given by general practitioners.

I am now in a position to give an indication of the approximate percentage of children under the age of five years who have received smallpox vaccinations and this is shown in the following Table:

YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR COMPLETED AND PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS					
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	TOTAL
1959	962 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	596 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	54 2%	175 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	1801
1960	/// ///	892 36%	645 26%	253 10%	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	1808
1961	/// ///	/// ///	873 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	836 37%	34 2%	1743
1962	/// ///	/// ///	/// ///	557 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	470 19%	1027
1963	/// ///	/// ///	/// ///	/// ///	42 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	42

The annual figure for 1963 shows a very large decrease on the previous year and the reasons for this are twofold. Firstly, as you will remember there were several cases of smallpox notified early in 1962 and this created a greater demand for vaccination and secondly during 1963 we felt the effects of the Ministry of Health's advice that primary vaccination against smallpox should be carried out between the ages of one and two years and not, as we had been doing previously, in the first year of the child's life.

The Table shows that up to the end of 1963, approximately 77% of children born in 1959 had received vaccination against smallpox, 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of those born in 1960, and 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of those born in 1961.

There is an appreciable drop in the percentage of children born in 1962 who have been vaccinated (41 $\frac{1}{2}$ %), particularly in view of the "smallpox scare" at the beginning of 1962 and one would have thought that by the end of 1963 most of this age group would have been vaccinated. However, as the first quarter of 1964 shows a further 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of this age group being vaccinated we may find that the vaccination of this group is not so concentrated as the previous groups.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS

During 1963, 2,260 children received primary immunisations against Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus.

An analysis of the immunisations which were completed in 1963, of children under the age of five shows that:

746	born in 1963	and immunised in 1963	represented 30% of the births for the year.
1015	" " 1962	" " " "	41% " " " "
107	" " 1961	" " " "	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % " " " "
26	" " 1960	" " " "	1% " " " "
25	" " 1959	" " " "	1% " " " "

The Table showing the number and percentage of children by age groups who have been immunised since 1959 is appended below.

YEAR OF BIRTH	DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION YEAR COMPLETED AND PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS									
	1959		1960		1961		1962		1963	
1959	882	38%	1008	43 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	209	9%	82	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	25	1%
1960	///	///	870	35%	1174	47 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	237	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	26	1%
1961	///	///	///	///	640	28%	1133	50%	107	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
1962	///	///	///	///	///	///	718	29%	1015	41%
1963	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	746	30%

With regard to the boosting doses given at school entry where children have not been previously immunised against tetanus and parents now wish this in addition to the Diphtheria booster, there has been a slight amendment to the procedure which I gave in my last year's report.

Where tetanus toxoid is to be given as a primary course along with the booster dose of the diphtheria antigen, an injection of the tetanus toxoid alone should be given first and then at least four weeks later the second dose combined with the diphtheria toxoid. The third dose of tetanus toxoid should follow six months or more afterwards.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued as a routine vaccination during 1963 at almost every Infant Welfare Centre in the Division, where primary vaccinations were given to babies at 7 to 10 months of age.

In May 1963, the Ministry of Health, after a review of the poliomyelitis vaccination arrangements in the light of a year's experience in the use of oral vaccine in this country, recommended that all immunised children entering school at five years should be offered a reinforcing dose of vaccine. This is now being offered at all the primary schools in the Division at the time of the child's entrant examination. Here again, I would like to express my thanks to the Head Teachers of the primary schools for their co-operation in this very important aspect of preventive medicine. Very few injections of Salk vaccine are now being given and we have also been able to clear most of the third doses that were due to patients having had two Salk injections previously.

I append below some statistics relating to poliomyelitis vaccinations which were carried out in the Division during 1963.

YEAR OF BIRTH	PRIMARY VACCINATIONS				
	MARCH QUARTER 1963	JUNE QUARTER 1963	SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1963	DECEMBER QUARTER 1963	TOTAL FOR YEAR
1963	///	///	25	225	250
1962	246	396	515	299	1456
1961	98	79	76	50	303
1943-1960	456	113	119	88	776
1933-1942	66	37	42	36	181
Others	85	71	62	31	249
TOTAL	951	696	839	729	3215

In addition to the 3215 primary vaccinations completed, 844 third doses and 3148 fourth doses were given.

The state of vaccination of children born in 1961, 1962 and 1963 is as follows.

Children born in 1961

316	vaccinated in 1961	representing	13.9%
1175	"	" 1962	" 52.0%
303	"	" 1963	" 13.4%

It is estimated therefore that approximately 79% of children born in 1961 have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

Children born in 1962

138 vaccinated in 1962 representing 5.6%
1456 " " 1963 " 59.3%

Thus approximately 65% of children in this age group have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

Children born in 1963

250 vaccinated in 1963 representing 10%

It should be borne in mind that the majority of these children will receive vaccination against poliomyelitis during 1964.

WELFARE FOODS DISTRIBUTION

The National Welfare Foods which are National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin A & D tablets are sold at some 21 centres in the Division. These foods are sold to beneficiaries who, in the case of National Dried Milk, are required to produce tokens. The remaining foods are sold without tokens being produced unless in some special circumstances the beneficiaries are issued with "free" tokens from the National Assistance Board.

During 1963 the sale of the foods was as follows:

National Dried Milk	8,992 tins to the value of	£1,180 18s. 0d.
Cod Liver Oil	2,706 bottles " " "	£ 135 6s. 0d.
Orange Juice	44,629 bottles " " "	£3,347 3s. 6d.
A & D Tablets	3,825 packets " " "	£ 95 12s. 6d.

Of the 21 centres, three are retail shops, four are welfare centre premises manned by paid personnel and the remainder are distribution centres staffed entirely by voluntary workers. I am very grateful to these voluntary ladies who have carried out this work so conscientiously during 1963.

CHIROPODY

The present scheme operating in the County provides for all aged persons (females aged sixty years and over, males aged sixty five years and over) for expectant mothers and for physically handicapped persons. In this Division treatment is provided by private chiropodists at a cost to the authority of 9/- or 15/- per treatment according to whether it is provided in the surgery or in the home, less a contribution from the patient of 2/6d. per treatment for the aged and handicapped persons and 5/6d. per treatment for expectant mothers. An exception is made of those in receipt of National Assistance Board allowances from whom no contribution is required.

During 1963 it is estimated that the six Chiropodists in this Division saw 666 patients and these patients had a total of 2967 treatments.

Of these 666 patients, 274 were housebound, and 392 attended the chiropodists surgeries.

In addition, treatment is given on a sessional basis by some Chiropodists who attend the Old Peoples Clubs and during 1963 an average of 58 patients were seen each month at some seven premises in the Division.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

I am grateful to the Ambulance Staff Officer, Mr. H.J.W. Bawden, for the following report.

St. Albans - Harpenden

During the year the directly provided Ambulance Service for St. Albans and Harpenden carried, 33,965 patients and covered 183,894 miles. An increase of 4,799 patients and 13,600 miles.

The Hospital Car Service carried 2,471 patients and covered 52,101 miles.

Mrs. L. Bedford the Hospital Car Service Organizer for St. Albans and Harpenden area resigned after many years service, and the Car Service for this area is now directly controlled by the Ambulance Brigade and is known as the Auxiliary Car Service.

At the Ambulance Training School 142 men have been trained according to the syllabus for Ambulance and First Aid Section of Civil Defence, and another 140 men attended for general ambulance instruction.

HOME HELP SERVICE

I am very grateful to Mrs. P.D. Taylor for the preparation of this report.

ST. ALBANS CITY AND RURAL DISTRICT, 1963

CASES SERVICED 1963

	Mental Illness	Mater nity	T.B.	Chronic	Blind	Acute	Accident	Misc.
Other than O.A.P.	3	179	4	41	NIL	58	3	2
O.A.P.	9	NIL	2	439	11	3	2	1

TOTAL 757

The year started with the hardest winter the Home Help Service had experienced. Many of the elderly citizens were without water and coal. An anonymous donor gave the Mayor £50 for coal for the elderly and the Round Table members helped to provide fuel for other needy cases.

There was one elderly woman who had spent Christmas with friends in London and had been taken ill and admitted to hospital. She was discharged home about the third week in January. There were burst pipes and no coal when she arrived in the afternoon. Coal and a food parcel were provided and the plumber, who could not have been busier, arrived to repair the water system. Everything was in order within twenty-four hours.

One of the home helps was called upon to look after an elderly man of eighty-two who had bronchitis and arthritis. He had no fire in his bedroom and it was difficult for him to climb the stairs. It was decided his bed should be brought down to the living room. The home help was up in his bedroom and heard voices below, she called "Would the gentleman down there have a few minutes to help me carry the bed downstairs?" "Certainly," said the gentleman, who was the Doctor and thereupon helped the home help with the bed and also assisted to get it set up!

There was water to be fetched daily from standpipes. In a vast number of cases the home helps were the only contact between the patient and the world outside. Their work was a true vocation more than ever during this period.

The cases steadily increased during the year, especially those relevant to the elderly and one wonders from where the staff will come in the future. It is difficult to divide the hours adequately so everyone receives a fair share of the help available. The assistant organiser was given a few more hours to help with the visiting. As the health of some patients improves and deteriorates so rapidly the visiting is

essential to keep priorities in perspective.

The Good Neighbour Service made a very slow start and we only employed four at the end of the year. These four were very valuable and it is hoped as the scheme gets under way it will be one solution to ease the shortage of staff.

At the annual presentation of badges to home helps at County Hall five received five year badges. Now there are over twenty home helps with these badges and one of them has been in the service sixteen years and two of them fifteen. The Conditions of Service for the home helps were amended and those with five years service will be receiving two weeks and three days holiday per annum and those with twelve years service three weeks in future.

Mobile Meals were delivered daily Monday to Friday in the City. At the end of the year there were too many demands on the service for one van to cope with so a Hotlock for twelve meals was purchased to start a subsidiary service. These meals are taken round in private cars by voluntary drivers. We would still like to see a Mobile Meals Service in the Rural Area near Watford Road and Bricket Wood. The meals as well as giving nourishment to the recipients assists the home helps' valuable time to be deployed elsewhere. Although organised by the Old Folks Welfare Committee meals were delivered to some handicapped people under pensionable age. The patients paid full cost as these dinners are not subsidised as those delivered to the old age pensioners.

A staff meeting of home helps was held in October when Doctor George Cust, Divisional Medical Officer, spoke to the home helps about working in houses where there is infection and where there is mental illness.

There were a number of offers of help from voluntary sources. A group of young people from the United Nations Association offered to clean up any houses too dirty for the home helps! These youngsters did some decorating. The Rover Scouts offered help and cleared a garden which was like a forest with saplings. A master and some of the senior boys from one of the schools did a wonderful job for an elderly lady who lived on her own. They fixed up a cooker and did some electricity work and decorated her bedroom. They also chopped wood and delivered it to the needy for Christmas as well as clearing gardens for the handicapped.

During the year I attended a two day Home Safety Conference in London and a weekend school for organisers at Buxton, the theme of which was "Care in the Community".

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the General Practitioners for their co-operation and understanding of our difficulties, the Hospital Almoners for their assistance and many others not forgetting my own staff of home helps for their untiring efforts to keep up the standard of the service we try to provide and for the many tasks they take on outside their normal duties.

I am very grateful to Mrs. J. Bowyer for the following Report.

BOREHAMWOOD HOME HELP SERVICE

Total number of current cases December 1963	-	179.
New cases attended during 1963	-	108.
Home Helps employed December 1963	-	43.
Cases helped by the Good Neighbour Service	-	21.

The main burden of the work in this area is caring for the chronic and elderly people who are rehoused from the London area. Amongst these people is a middle aged, helpless spinster who depends entirely upon this Service. She is so rude and demanding that neighbours refuse to help her, but the home help attends daily, in spite of the patient being very abusive.

The Children's Officer has requested help for 5 families where the fathers, singlehanded, are keeping a home for the children. Help is usually provided to prepare the children's breakfast and send them off to school, where there are young children help is again given at teatime.

The County has provided 3 home helps in this area with bicycles, this enables the Service to be extended to the outlying farms. One mother with 5 young children, was discharged from hospital and ordered complete rest, the home help cycles 7 miles every day for 2 months to the farm to help this mother.

There are now 2 home helps with over 10 years service and 8 with over 5 years service to their credit, 3 home helps were presented with long service badges this year at County Hall.

The in-service training course was held at Hatfield Technical College, 2 home helps from this area attended.

The Good Neighbour Service was introduced into the County this year and has proved very successful in this area. This Service provides the acutely ill or chairbound cases with a little help more frequently each day than is possible by the Home Help Service. One patient with a chronic cardiac condition recently lost her mother, she discharged herself from

hospital and made two attempts to commit suicide. A Good Neighbour was prepared to help this patient, she has cleaned, washed and cooked for her, but has also given the patient that little extra attention which is possible under this Scheme, the hospital are very pleased with the patient's condition.

The Meals on Wheels Service only provide 20 lunches twice a week, these are made available by the kindness of John Laing Ltd.

The Red Cross Society members have recently volunteered to visit the difficult spinster several evenings a week. The needy patients have received warm clothing and food parcels from this organisation.

One elderly lady who is now housebound, played an active part in the Girl Guides, the District Commissioner was informed of this lady's condition and the Guides now visit frequently.

I am very grateful to Mrs. J. Darbyshire for the following report.

HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT - 1963

1. The shortage of suitable staff is particularly acute in Wheathampstead and Harpenden area, largely due to the difficulty in obtaining private help and the consequent call on our services. Our difficulty being added to by enormously high wages offered privately - as much as 6/6d. per hour. The shortage is being temporarily overcome by engaging help from Luton.
2. The bulk of cases is the chronic sick and aged, but a large proportion of maternity cases have been serviced - with an even larger amount of advance bookings - both home confinements and very early hospital discharges, also quite a number of pre-confinement cases, successfully concluded by confinement help.
3. The Good Neighbour service seems to work well in some cases, though a suitable Good Neighbour is not always easy to find. This is where District Nurse and Health Visitor co-operation has been very helpful.
4. This office is of great value and the additional daily session 3.30 - 4.30 useful.
5. The liaison with all voluntary services excellent. The meals on wheels, invaluable, and the W.V.S. and Harpenden Trust have been particularly helpful.
6. We have had a number of difficult cases, these have been successfully resolved by a Home Help or Good Neighbour. One very difficult case being dealt with on a rota system, another very difficult, eccentric and irascible old lady, who had not been to bed for a year was helped by a Good Neighbour until she became unable to leave her chair, when with the tactful persuasion of the Good Neighbour she finally consented to go to hospital, where she has settled very well I am told.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education is a most important part of the work of the Health Department. It has always been a recognised part of the job of the Doctor and Nurse to teach their patients about health. This has traditionally been on a person-to-person basis, the Doctor or Nurse dealing with the health problems of one patient at a time, and attempting to give her knowledge and change her attitudes so that she can adopt more healthy habits. Much of the work in the clinics, in the homes of families, by the Health Visitors, and the work of the Family and Hospital Doctor is carried out in this field.

In addition to this, the importance of teaching people in groups has come to the forefront in recent years. Not only can patients bring up their own fears and worries within the cover of the group, but by group teaching, knowledge can be given to patients so that their attitudes to health or disease on a specific topic can be changed so that they change unhealthy behaviour into healthy habits.

Antenatal Health Education Classes combined with Relaxation Classes are now being held at the following Centres:

Wellington Court Clinic, St. Albans.
Cunningham Hill Health Annexe, St. Albans.
Skyswood Health Annexe, St. Albans.
40 Luton Road, Harpenden.

Full details of such a Class are described below:

Mrs. McDearmid, Health Visitor, reports:-

The Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes have been in progress at Wellington Court during the past year. These take place each Monday afternoon. Each course consists of seven sessions.

The Mothercraft talks and discussions contain general antenatal care including nutrition, the layette, an explanation of the birth process, discussions on infant feeding and general baby care; with a talk by the midwife, with a demonstration of the Gas and Air, and Trilene methods of analgesia.

For two of the sessions, mothers booked for hospital confinement are also invited to join the group for a baby bathing demonstration and a talk on Local Health Services.

Visual aids loaned by the County Health Education Department at Hatfield are an additional help in clarifying points in detail.

The Relaxation and Exercises which follow the talks are given in the hope that the expectant mother will have, as far as is possible, a natural childbirth, accompanied by the minimum of discomfort; and judging by letters received and appreciation shown by the mothers after the confinement, I think this has been largely achieved, especially by those who have conscientiously carried out the exercises and relaxation each day at home.

An average of five mothers attended each lecture.

It is rewarding that the majority of mothers complete the course and appear to enjoy their weekly class.

Mothers' clubs at Skyswood and Elstree Way Health Centres continued to be popular during the year.

The work done on Health Education in the schools is discussed on page 17 of the School Health Report.

A number of other talks have also been given by the following members of the staff during the year to various groups.

By Dr. Cust:

Young People's Fellowship, Marlborough Road Methodist
Marshalswick Youth Club
Spastic Society
Redbourn Parent Teacher Association
Skyswood School Parent Teacher Association
Young Conservatives, St. Albans.
St. Saviour's Youth Fellowship, St. Albans.
National Council of Women - St. Albans Branch
Harpenden Round Table
Elizabethan Women's Club
School Meals Staff
First Aid Lectures - St. John Ambulance Brigade
Abbey Young Wives' Group
St. Albans Townswomen's Guild
Catholic Women's League
Maple Women's Club
Old Folks' Welfare Committee

Colney St. Peter's Young Wives' Group
Highfield National Children's Home Youth Club
Fleetville School Parent Teacher Association

Dr. O'Reilly:

Sandridge School Parent Teacher Association

Miss Greenham, Health Visitor:

Young Wives' Group, St. Mary's Parish Church, Redbourn.

Miss Bushby, Health Visitor:

The Link Club, Boreham Wood.
The Overflow Club, Boreham Wood.

Miss Joyce, Health Visitor:

Women's Guild, St. Michael's Church, Boreham Wood.
Mothers' Club, Boreham Wood.
Trinity Methodist's Women's Friendly Circle, Boreham Wood.
Roundabout Mothers' Club, Boreham Wood.
Darby and Joan Club, Boreham Wood.

Mrs. Tattersall, Health Visitor:

The Guild, Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St. Albans.

Miss Riches, Health Visitor:

British Red Cross Society (9 lectures on Maternal and Child
Welfare)

Mrs. Dominy:

Modern Parents' Club, Harpenden.

Miss Woodall, Health Visitor:

The Marshalswick Mothers' Club, St. Albans.

Mrs. P.D. Taylor:

Trinity Women's Fellowship, St. Albans.
New Greens Over Sixties Club, St. Albans.
St. Michael's Women's Club, St. Albans.
Dagnall Street Fellowship.

Anti-Smoking Clinic

Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking

The British Temperance Society in co-operation with the Health Department carried out a Five Day Anti-Smoking Clinic at the Town Hall, St. Albans from November 11th - 15th. This was the first type of this course to be run in England, though previous courses had been held in Cardiff and in Belfast. Fifty patients attended the whole of the five nights of the clinic. Preliminary results in these people showed that at the end of eight weeks, forty-eight per cent of them had stopped smoking and another forty-six per cent had reduced their smoking habit. This, however, is far too early to say what the eventual smoking habit of these people will be and they are to be followed up at six months and one year from the end of the clinic by the Health Department.

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE, 1963

ST. ALBANS DIVISION

The St. Albans Health Division of the Hertfordshire County Council covers the areas of the following local authorities from North to South:-

Harpenden Urban District
St. Albans City
St. Albans Rural District
Elstree Rural District

The area, on the whole, is an urban one, although there are large amounts of pleasant countryside surrounding the urban areas. There was full employment in the area during 1963, and the area can be classed as a reasonably prosperous one.

The population of the Division is 140,140 with a school population of 22,158 and a pre-school population of 11,361.

STAFF

The staff of the department consists of:-

Medical Staff

Dr. G. Cust	Divisional Medical Officer
Dr. P. O'Reilly	School Medical Officer
Dr. A. Stevenson	" " "
Dr. J. Beard	" " " (left October 1963)
Dr. A. Wright	" " "
Dr. E.G. Davie	" " " (commenced part-time 21.1.63, full-time 2.9.63)
Dr. D. Marsden	" " " (started part-time 30.9.63)

Nursing Staff

Mrs. E.M. Jeffries	Divisional Nursing Officer (resigned March 1963)
Miss B.C. Thornton	Deputy Divisional Nursing Officer (appointed Divisional Nursing Officer 24.4.63)
Miss A.T. Roberts	Deputy Divisional Nursing Officer from 16.9.63

(a) Health Visitors

Miss Abbott (started 1.9.63)	Miss Burt
Mrs. Barasi (started 28.10.63)	Miss Bushby
Miss Barrand	Miss Conduit
Mrs. Bruce (left 16.12.63)	Miss Cooper
Miss Buchanan (started 30.9.63)	Miss Greenham

Mrs. Hanson (left August 1963)	Miss Mockford (started 1.1.64)
Miss Helyar	Miss Reed
Miss Jenkinson	Miss Riches
Miss Joyce	Miss Sachs
Miss A.M. Lewis	Miss Sharpe
Miss W.J. Lewis (started 1.5.63)	Miss S. Smith
Miss Lord (started part-time 8.10.63)	Mrs. Tattersall
Mrs. McDearmid	Mrs. Trudgett
	Miss Woodall

N.B. All the doctors and health visitors work part-time in the School Health Service.

(b) Clinic Nurses

Mrs. Hooper	Mrs. Pink (started 1.12.63)
Mrs. Jackson	Mrs. Rogers
Mrs. Jones (left February 1963)	Miss Thomson
Mrs. Nicholls	

(c) Consultants

*Dr. M.V. Bickerton	Consultant Audiologist
*Dr. A.M. Garratt)	
*Dr. J. Crewdson)	Consultant Ophthalmologist

(d) Other Services

*Mr. Grossman (started 7.1.64))	
*Mr. R. Savage)	
*Mrs. Grossman (started 7.1.64)	)	Peripatetic Teachers of the Deaf
Mr. J. Simpson (resigned mid 1963))	
Mrs. J.P. Toohey (resigned mid 1963))	

*Miss N. Chatterton	Remedial Therapist
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Miss J.M. Barfield)	
Miss L.H. Martin)	Speech Therapists

*Miss M.J. Jeavons (left 6.9.63)	
*Miss Ashley-Biggs (started Oct.63)	Orthoptists

*Miss J.F. Anderson	Audiometrician
*Miss S. Lumgair	Asst. Audiometrician

(e) Clerical Staff

Mr. Jewell (part-time school health service)	Mrs. Stratton (resigned February 1963)
Mrs. Woodsmith	Miss Wren (started 16.4.63)

(*Denotes part-time in this division - either shared with another division or Regional Hospital Board.)

There have been a number of changes in the staff during 1963. Dr. Beard left us in October to return to surgery in India. Dr. Davie who commenced part-time on 21st January 1963, was appointed full time to replace Dr. Beard, and Dr. Marsden was appointed on 30th September, 1963 to fill the part-time appointment. The addition of the part-time medical appointment has been a great help during 1963, although as the birth rate has continued to rise, the demand on medical time for infant welfare sessions and immunisation sessions, at the Infant Welfare Clinics has risen and as the doctors have to do extra infant welfare sessions, the amount of time available to do school health work, drops correspondingly.

There have been a number of changes amongst the Health Visiting staff but we are still under establishment, even with the addition of the two part-time Health Visitors.

ADMINISTRATION

Geographically, the Health Division and the Education Division of the County Council do not coincide, but both the St. Albans Education Division and the Barnet Education Division are concerned with our administration. The St. Albans Education Division is situated wholly within the St. Albans Health Division, but the southern part of the Health Division comes under the Barnet Education Division. The liaison between both Divisions is very good and very close. The Divisional Medical Officer attends the School Welfare Committee of the St. Albans Divisional Executive.

The School Medical Officers do not have a room in the Divisional Health Office in which they can keep their files, and where they can work, and this means they have to write up cases in outlying clinics, or in their own homes, and do not meet or see the rest of the staff as frequently as they would if they had such a room. We hope that when the Divisional Health Office moves from the present premises at 15 Hatfield Road, to Bleak House in 1964, that some of the difficulties with the office accommodation will cease.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION

This valuable work has gone on as usual throughout the year. The present system of routine medical examination is as follows:-

1. Entrant examination at 5 years for all children.
2. Intermediate examination of all children at 8 years.
3. Intermediate examination of all children at 11 years.
4. Leaver examination for all children.

In addition, the entrants to nursery schools have a routine medical inspection. In order to develop good personal relationships between the head teacher, his staff, and the school doctor and health visitor, doctors and health visitors are attached to particular schools, and, so far as it is possible to do so, the doctors and health visitors follow the child up the line from Infant Welfare Clinic to Infant School, Junior School to Secondary School; by letting the doctors do the Infant Welfare Clinic in the areas in which are their schools.

During 1963, after a number of meetings and discussions among our own staff, we did produce a report on alterations in the form of the routine medical inspection, which was discussed with our teacher colleagues, and which we hope will go into operation in this Division on 1.1.65.

STATISTICS

TABLE I - PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

<u>Age Groups Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Pupils Inspected</u>	<u>Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected</u>	
		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Nursery Schools	236	236	-
Entrants	2740	2730	10
8 years	1784	1779	5
12 years	1409	1404	5
Leavers	1449	1446	3
Total	7618 (7785)	7595 (7742)	23(43) *

All children at routine medical inspections are classed as medically satisfactory or medically unsatisfactory. 99.7% of all children were satisfactory. 0.3% of all children were unsatisfactory at the time of examination, this compares with 0.5% who were unsatisfactory last year.

TABLE II - SPECIAL INSPECTIONS & RE-INSPECTIONS

Special Examinations - At School		280)	Total <u>503</u> (263)
At Clinic		223)	
Re-inspections - At School		5005)	Total <u>5041</u> (4479)
At Clinic		36)	

* figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

DEFECTS FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Cleanliness

The standard of cleanliness on the whole is high, though there are a few families in each area where things leave much to be desired, but these are already well known to the Health Visitors and are under supervision. When children from these families reach fourteen years old examination they are often responsive to individual advice at the medical, and if their intelligence is normal they can often wash their own clothes and care for their own personal hygiene. This is specially true of the girls and there is often a dramatic improvement at this age, especially if they feel that the interest shown in them by the doctor is not a critical one.

The incidence of head lice is very rare in the Division, but there are a few cases found each year, but mainly in known families. There were 18,425 head inspections in schools during the year and only nine children were found to be infested.

Teeth

All the school doctors report little change in the condition of children's teeth. There are few children who show a perfect set of permanent teeth but there are relatively few cases seen at medical inspection of untreated dental decay. Where there has been gross decay in the first dentition, the diet can generally be blamed. Young children are allowed to eat far too many sweets and biscuits between meals and the parents do not realise that their permissive attitude to these and to the twice daily call of the ice cream bell, in reality does their children a dis-service. Artificial fluoridation of the water supply would be of great help in producing teeth with better resistance to caries.

Eyes

	Disease or Defect	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
		T	O	T	O	T	O	T	O
a.	Vision	168	318	233	33	408	113	809	464
b.	Squint	89	58	9	1	64	15	162	74
c.	Other	14	18	1	5	21	29	36	52

(T = children requiring treatment:
O = children requiring observation)

Defects of visual acuity are the most common trouble found at routine medical examinations. Normally children's visions are tested at the age of 5, 8, 11 and 14, and during the year we started doing an extra vision test for children at the age of 6 years just to check whether any latent cases of amblyopia were being missed at the age of five. There are still a

relatively large number of visual defects found at the leaver medical, particularly in the Grammar School Group.

Ears

	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>
a. Hearing	48	227	7	6	35	61	90	294
b. Otitis Media	44	170	4	4	12	45	60	219
c. Other	6	25	2	1	11	21	19	47

A high proportion of children referred to as defects here, have only slightly defective hearing, frequently a variable catarrhal deafness, and it is most helpful to be able to investigate these cases further whilst they are still at school. Many infant school teachers are very vigilant and bring forward any child whose hearing they are at all worried about and these ears can be tested at the routine medical inspection. The services of peripatetic teachers are greatly appreciated both in the investigation and elucidation of borderline cases and also the very frequent and regular care which they give to the several partially deaf children in normal schools and the children who are using hearing aids.

There has been increasing use of the County Audiology Unit set up in 1962 for referral of cases picked up not only in school children but in pre-school children. There have also been many children referred to the audiometrician for assessment of their hearing. This is purely a technical service in which the school doctor can get a scientific measure of the child's hearing. During the year sweep audiology of children of five years of age was carried out in a number of infant schools. We shall be most interested to see what the results of this are, as many cases of deafness in children of this age are just due to transient catarrhal conditions. There was an increase of otitis media in the children examined this year, compared with last year, this increase being largely in the entrant age group.

Nose and Throat

	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>
	105	498	19	35	41	248	165	781

Diseases of the nose and throat do not appear to have caused a great deal of trouble, though recurrent catarrhal infections are very common in the entrant age group. The recent trend over the last few years towards not recommending tonsillectomy appears to be fully justified and the number of children actually having this operation is diminishing.

Speech

Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>
43	189	3	5	15	43	61	237

Throughout the whole of 1963 we have had the services of two Speech Therapists, Miss Barfield working in Boreham Wood and Harpenden, Miss Martin in the City and the Rural Districts. In addition to the children referred from the School Health Service, many children are referred from the Infant Welfare Centres to the Speech Therapist in order that the child should be helped to some degree before going to school. The children appear to enjoy their sessions at speech therapy and seem to make rapid progress and by eight years old, most speech defects have been cured and the few remaining stammerers have been helped to control their speech.

Heart

Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>
21	111	3	25	15	104	39	240

Most cardiac defects have been diagnosed by the family doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic before the child's admission to school, and only rarely is it, that a child has to be referred from the School Health Service to his doctor regarding a congenital defect, but occasionally a rheumatic heart disease is picked up during routine medical inspection. There are about half a dozen children each year who have had cardiac operations or who are awaiting cardiac operations and these are followed up with special regard to the degree of school activity to be permitted.

Lungs

Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>
50	170	11	18	44	97	105	285

Bronchitis with or without asthma is by far the commonest condition found and most of these were already under treatment by their doctor or the Chest Clinic. There was a sharp epidemic of whooping cough in some of the districts in the Autumn and Winter of 1963; both typical and atypical cases (due to previous immunisation) and this caused a good deal of absenteeism in schools and many children were suffering from catarrhal coughs and lack of appetite for many weeks after the infection had cleared.

Developmental Conditions

	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	T	O	T	O	T	O	T	O
a. Hernia	14	17	0	1	0	7	14	25
b. Other	15	80	8	15	16	82	39	177

Not many hernias have been seen during the year and those observed have been operated on or were being observed at hospital. Undescended testicles is by far the most common condition.

Orthopaedics

	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	T	O	T	O	T	O	T	O
a. Posture	4	33	3	88	7	138	14	259
b. Feet	14	265	5	134	32	360	51	759
c. Other	14	104	23	36	20	95	57	235

(a) Posture On the whole most school medical officers agree that much of the poor posture seen particularly in adolescence is a sign of lack of confidence and if this can be tackled the posture improves. Poor posture in girls in the early teens may reflect shyness about their developing breasts. A certain type of slouch is found in teenage boys who are endeavouring to emulate their favourite 'pop' singer.

(b) Feet In a large number of schools there appears to be an improvement in the condition of the feet of teenage girls. One doctor reports "At all the secondary modern schools I go to, the head teachers have been waging a campaign for better shaped shoes and the shoes the girls are coming to school in, are really improved. I would like to feel that this is a result of all our work and propaganda, but as one grammar school girl said to me, "You are not going to be so worried about our feet in future doctor, as pointed toes are out." Another doctor says "Flat feet and valgus ankles are very numerous and having tired of removing my shoes and demonstrating exercises to be carried out at home, I have now arranged with the head teachers and their staff for exercises to be incorporated with P.E." Teachers have been most helpful about this.

There have been a number of children during the year who have had fractures following injuries and transport to school has been arranged in a number of cases whilst the children were in full length leg plasters.

Nervous System

	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	T	O	T	O	T	O	T	O
a. Epilepsy	4	4	3	1	7	6	14	11
b. Other	4	26	7	5	5	13	16	44

There were a small number of epileptics seen in the children examined during the year. Only a very small minority of these lead to any difficulty in the school. Most children suffering from epilepsy fit very well into normal school life but it is essential that the teaching staff should be fully informed of the fact and there should be full co-operation between parents and headmaster. In this way allowance can be made by teachers for example, for temperament changes due to alteration in dose of drugs, or for any factors liable to upset the normal pattern of fits. If the parents do fully realise the responsibility placed on the school, precautions can be usually worked out together, e.g. one little girl who is very prone to cut her head, wears a light crash helmet when her fits are expected to be most frequent. Other children in the class accept these precautions and fits quite casually, and are most helpful with her.

Psychological

	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>O</u>
a. Development	6	44	2	13	8	39	16	96
b. Stability	9	221	3	19	26	134	38	374

Slowness of development in school children is on the whole well catered for once the children get to the age of seven and can go to the Educationally Subnormal School. There are however, some difficulties when children are known to be backward at school at the age of five and there is a hiatus between 5 and 7 which is difficult to fill. When a child in this category is known to be attending the school there seems to be no adequate provision for them until they can go to the E.S.N. school unless they stay under the Nursery School. We seem to need something to fill this gap. Our educational psychologist colleagues have been as usual, of invaluable help in assessing and following up retarded children. The Division as a whole does seem to be short of an educational psychologist, even when we are full staffed, but since Mr. Hughes left during the year, the difficulties in the South of the division, have been very great.

Children with emotional difficulties are extremely common. The school medical officers themselves, do a great deal to help these patients, by giving time for the mother to talk about her troubles. Many of the doctors run a special clinic where the mother can feel that she can talk as much as she wants. In severe cases of maladjustment of course, referral to the Child Guidance Clinic is necessary. Emotional problems of adolescence can also reflect family troubles as many of the emotional problems at five years do, but these later troubles often result from rebellion at this age. Recent patterns of family upbringing have been over permissive in early childhood and the ill discipline caused by this may force the parent to too severe restrictions during adolescence.

This is contrary to the desirable pattern whereby control by the parents is gradually shed until in the teens the child attains responsibility to himself. The medical examination at fourteen is of a special interest as this is the first time the child is seen as a developed personality and these troubles recognised and explained to both parent and child. The early puberty now found poses its special difficulties and sex education becomes increasingly important. Most headteachers realise this and some form of education is being provided, either by the school or health department staff. It is at last realised that although this should be a parental responsibility, many parents are unable to carry it out. Quite a number of twelve year old girls say that parents have not prepared them for menstruation at all.

Nocturnal enuresis in younger children is still a problem and a great deal of success is being obtained by using the electrical conditioning apparatus.

The Child Guidance service has continued to be a great help during the year. The personal contacts with Mrs. Gregory and Mr. Hughes (before he left) is very close. I think there are still difficulties with this service because the doctor referring the case does not know which child psychiatrist will be seeing the case and apart from rare occasions, there is very little personal communication, between the psychiatrist and the school doctor.

MEDICAL INSPECTION ROOMS

During the year a survey was made at the school medical inspections of the school medical rooms. It is still rather disappointing to see some of the comments about purpose built medical inspection rooms, e.g. at one school, though there is a purpose built medical inspection room, actually the staff room was used for the medical as this was so much better for the purpose than the medical room. Another comment "Purpose built medical inspection room - I think this was purpose built but is now the secretary's office." Though there are purpose built medical inspection rooms, very often there are no adequate changing facilities for the children and they have to change behind screens in the hall or even in the medical inspection room, and often there is no comfortable waiting space for the patients.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The work with handicapped pupils takes up a large part of the time of the school doctor, and on the whole, handicapped pupils are well catered for in this area. The opening of the Day Physically Handicapped School at Oxhey by the County Council and the Watford Centre by the Spastics Society has been a great help to the more severely physically handicapped children in this Division.

The categories of handicapped children are:-

Blind children	Educationally subnormal children
Partially sighted children	Physically handicapped children
Deaf children	Delicate children
Partially deaf children	Maladjusted children

HANDICAPPED PUPILS 1963

	New cases assessed New admissions in 1963		No. of Children Receiving Special Educational Treatment.							No. of children awaiting placement	
			Special Schools		Inde- pend- ent Schools	Boar- ding homes or host- els	At Home	Hospitals, convalesc- ent homes, or other units	TOTAL	No. of children awaiting placement	
			Day	Res.						Day	Res.
Blind	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	1
Partially sighted	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Deaf	-	-	2	3	4	-	-	-	9	-	-
Partially hearing	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Physically handicapped	5	11	13	4	4	-	4	-	25	-	-
Delicate	4	3	-	11	1	-	1	-	13	-	1
Maladjusted	2	5	2	11	11	3	2	-	29	-	2
Educationally subnormal	40	56	124	23	-	-	1	-	148	10	2
Epileptic	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Speech	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	53	75	142	66	20	3	8	-	239	10	7

B.C.G. VACCINATION

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to all children during their thirteenth year. The children are first tested to determine whether or not they need B.C.G. vaccination. All children who are 'negative' to the test (which means that these children have had no infection with tuberculosis in their lives and thus have no immunity against the disease) are then vaccinated against tuberculosis. All children who show 'positive' tests, which means that at some time in their lives they have had an infection with tuberculosis, are X-rayed at the Chest Clinics to ensure that they have no active disease. This is a most valuable procedure for the prevention of tuberculosis.

School or College	No. of consents received	No. of pupils of Independent and County Secondary Schools.			
		Tested	Pos.	Neg.	Vacc.
Aldwickbury	13	10	1	9	9
Birklands	9	9	1	8	8
Beaumont S.M.	150	144	5	136	136
Boreham Wood Grammar	88	85	3	82	82
Boys' County Grammar	78	78	6	72	72
Campions S.M.	69	63	4	59	59
Francis Bacon Grammar	123	118	4	109	*107
Girls' High School	54	49	-	46	46
Hillside S.M.	171	166	10	156	156
Holmshill S.M.	130	127	5	118	118
London Colney S.M.	61	60	4	56	56
Loreto College	105	104	6	96	96
Lyndale	1	1	-	1	1
Lyndhurst S.M.	121	110	8	100	100
Manland S.M.	101	96	4	92	92
Marshalswick S.M.	80	76	6	70	70
Redbourn S.M.	40	36	-	36	36
Roundwood S.M.	77	76	4	72	72
St. Albans School	83	83	2	78	78
St. Albans Girls' Grammar	82	80	5	74	74
St. Julians	92	87	6	81	81
St. Georges	34	34	5	29	29
Sandfield	105	96	5	88	88
Townsend C.E. Boys	33	32	-	32	32
Townsend C.E. Girls	70	69	3	66	66
	1970	1889	97	1766	1764

* Two boys not vaccinated - one having course of tetanus and one had a brother ill with mumps.

SCHOOL MEALS

There has been a very close co-operation between the school meals service and the School Health Service during the year. I think this is most essential if the best medical advice is to be given to what is a very large catering organisation.

I include below a description of an unusual outbreak of Food Poisoning which occurred in one of the schools in the Division.

During a school lunch, at a Primary School in St. Albans on the 5th November, 1963, members of the staff and children complained of a sudden onset of a general feeling of warmth, accompanied by a tingling of the face and a purple-red rash on the face, body and limbs. The onset was extremely sudden and occurred before many of the people had started to eat their second course. There was no vomiting or diarrhoea. Of 228 people served school meals that day, 70 children and 13 staff developed symptoms. Most people developed symptoms within 15 minutes of beginning to eat and the reaction lasted from 30 to 60 minutes.

Typical symptoms were described by members of the teaching staff as follows:-

"I had just eaten the main course and beginning the dessert when I noticed my eyes were tingling, and this passed to my forehead and my face. My face felt hot and painful, as if it had been scrubbed with sandpaper. I also felt very hot. My face went red and this was commented on by other people at the dinner table. A purple-red rash passed down from my face on to my neck, shoulders, chest and as far down as my knees, in about 30 minutes. The rash disappeared in the same order in which it had come, in about another 30 minutes, after which I felt cold and looked rather pale, but within an hour I was completely back to normal."

Other people described similar symptoms:-

"My face turned a vivid red colour, I had painful eyes, and I felt hot. I had a tingling sensation in my fingers, and my head, neck and body turned a vivid red colour."

"Face turned red and flushed. The palms of my hands tingled, my face tingled and turned red."

"After a slight irritation of the hands, I got a hot sensation on my face. My face and body turned a purple-red colour. I felt as if I had been severely sunburnt."

There was one atypical reaction from a member of the staff who said, "I did not feel ill until after the meal and for the rest of the day my skin felt tight and I had a headache and felt sick."

It was obvious that this was not an ordinary bacteriological toxin or infective food-poisoning nor were the symptoms suggestive of any other metallic food-poisonings, although the incubation period was about right for these. My remark about the clinical symptoms at the time, was that it was typical of what happened after an injection of a powerful vaso-dilator.

Investigations

The school meal consisted of hamburgers, carrots, potatoes and gravy; with a dessert of rhubarb and custard. The whole of the staff of the school were interviewed and detailed questionnaires of the things they had eaten at the meal, and of any reactions, were compiled. It was also helpful that the people had sat down to this meal in three sittings, the canteen staff having the last meal in the series and they very bravely decided only to have the first course, to decide what had caused this reaction. It soon became obvious that the meat dish of the meal was the cause of the reaction.

The meat was minced chuck steak, and it was the first time that meat had come from this particular butcher, as it was the first delivery under a new County Council School Meals contract. The meat was described by the canteen manageress as "nice, pink and fresh looking." To this minced steak was added dried semolina, dried herbs, salt and pepper and onions. The semolina, dried herbs, salt and pepper were all from supplies which had been used previously without any trouble. The onions were the last of a large batch which had been used in previous meals without any ill effects. The point was specifically raised of the appearance of the onions, as to whether or not they had been daffodil bulbs etc., but the canteen staff were very confident that these were all onions.

As is the routine procedure with the School Meals service, a sample of the complete meal had been retained by the Canteen Manageress. Samples of the hamburger were sent (a) for bacteriological investigation and (b) for chemical analysis, with the suggestion that the Analyst should look for a vaso-dilator.

Later that day I discussed this outbreak with Dr. Bloss of the Ministry of Health and he was able to tell me of cases with similar symptoms in another town a month previously. The symptoms in these cases had been due to the presence of an excess amount of nicotinic acid on minced meat. A preparation sold under the trade name of 'Evered', and consisting of a mixture of nicotinic acid and ascorbic acid, had been added to the minced meat to help give the meat a good red colour.

The meat in our cases had been supplied by a butcher in Middlesex and our colleagues there visited the premises of the butcher concerned, and at first the Manager denied the use of any preparation on the minced

meat, but eventually admitted that a product known as 'Salox' was used in the shop and that one of his assistants might have used this in the preparation of the meat sent to St. Albans. The one pack of 'Salox' in the butchers shop was obtained and sent to the City Analyst for investigation.

Results of Investigations

(a) Bacteriological Report There were no pathogenic organisms grown from the sample of hamburger.

(b) Chemical Analysis of the Hamburgers Ascorbic Acid - From three samples of the hamburgers the amounts of ascorbic acid present were found as follows:-

Sample A	-	18.5 mg. per 100 g.
Sample B	-	22.0 mg. per 100 g.
Sample C	-	13.5 mg. per 100 g.

The normal figure for a meat product such as this, having regard to the fact that the recipe used contained fresh onions, should not exceed 2 mg. per 100 g. Sample B was subjected to a micro-biological assay for nicotinic acid. The amount of nicotinic acid present in 100 g. of hamburger was found to be 300 mg. The actual nicotinic acid content of normal meat varies considerably with a figure of 50 mg. per 100 g. as an average figure. A reasonable assumption to make, therefore, is that the sample contained not less than 250 mg. of extraneous nicotinic acid per 100 g. of the meat (100 g. is an average sized portion of the hamburger.) The 'Salox' obtained from the butcher's shop was contained in a large lever lid tin, the lid of which had been pierced in many places with large holes. The directions of the label were that one ounce of the additive is to be used for every 30 lbs. of meat. The analysis of the 'Salox' showed the following:-

Ascorbic Acid	12.0 per cent.
Nicotinic Acid.....	6.3 per cent.
together with Reducing Sugar.	

If this material was used at the rate recommended, the added nicotinic acid content would be approximately 13 mg. per 100 g. in the finished article. It is therefore evident that an appreciable excess of the compound had been employed in the treatment of the minced beef used for the hamburgers.

Summary

1. An outbreak of 'food poisoning' due to the presence of excessive amounts of nicotinic acid added to raw meat is described.
2. Following this outbreak and other cases, regulations have been made jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health prohibiting the addition of nicotinic acid and similar chemicals to raw and unprocessed meat intended for human consumption.

I should like to thank Dr. J.F.E. Bloss of the Ministry of Health for his help and advice, Mr. J.D. Curson, City Analyst for the ascorbic acid determination, and Dr. A.J. Amos, O.B.E., for the nicotinic acid assay.

HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Health Education in the School Health Service this year has been carried out under three headings.

- 1) Smoking and Health
- 2) General Health Education
- 3) Food Hygiene and the School Meals Staff

1. Lectures on smoking and health have been carried out in many Secondary Schools by the Divisional Medical Officer. In addition to this there was a visit of the Central Council for Health Education Anti-Smoking Unit from 13th to 21st June. This unit visited ten Secondary Schools and altogether talked to 600 children. The mobile unit was manned by two male university graduates, both with Secondary School teaching experience. Both these lecturers had an intensive course of training on the subject of smoking and health. The usual way of working the unit was for each of the demonstrators to deal with a normal class unit for a normal class period of about forty five minutes. One demonstrator gave a talk and showed a film and the other demonstrator used a flannel graph to demonstrate his talks. Each demonstrator took two classes in the morning and two in the afternoon during the time they were in the division.

There was some administrative difficulty with the unit, but there is no doubt that they made a strong impression on children in the schools and I was particularly impressed with the response to the Ministry of Health film, "Smoking and You." This is a most difficult field in which to work. Health Education in this subject consists of three stages: 1) The children must be given the knowledge that smoking is harmful. 2) They must acquire attitudes from this knowledge and from the habits and attitudes of their parents and teachers that smoking is dangerous to health and they should not take up stage 3) the habit of smoking cigarettes. In order to assess the work of this unit, a questionnaire was submitted to

those children before the unit came to the school and six months after the visit. It is very difficult using questionnaires to gain much impression of the attitudes of these children and, even more difficult to find out what their habits are. Judging from our questionnaires before the Smoking Unit visited the schools, a large percentage of the children, approximately 70 per cent, knew the dangers of smoking, and as far as can be assessed by a questionnaire many of them have the attitude that smoking is bad for health and they themselves would not smoke at all or would only smoke in moderation.

I would think that the best way of carrying out this particular field of health education locally in schools is two ways: 1) that facts relating to smoking to be used in physics, biology, chemistry and general science, and 2) that these should be reinforced by anti-smoking campaigns, very similar to the one we had in St. Albans, but I would have thought that our own staff could do this most adequately rather than bringing in units from outside. As so many of the children already know the facts about smoking and health, I think attempts to make smoking unpopular by means of its expense, its effects on athletic performance, and the hygienic aspects of smoking should be exploited. One of the questions which we asked these children, was to describe in no more than four lines why they thought young people started to smoke, and their answers are classified as follows:-

To feel big..	..	..	..	244
To copy adults	..	..	..	221
To show off..	..	..	..	215
To appear grown up	..	..	..	198
Because friends do	..	..	..	124
To copy parents	..	..	..	104
Calms nerves.	..	..	..	51
For fun.	..	..	..	49
Because it is a habit..	..	..	..	34
To keep mind occupied..	..	..	..	20
Advertising on television	..	..	..	19

Fifty nine children expressed the opinion that they did not know.

2. Other Health Education Topics

Requests from schools have been made to the Divisional Medical Officer for talks on foot health and work of the Health Service. At the St. Albans Girls' Grammar School the Health Department have operated as a team with one of the class teachers, doing the health topics in a Civics course. The subjects covered have been personal hygiene, care of the teeth, feet, simple anatomy and physiology, food, food hygiene, infections, immunisations, the Health Service, the work of the Health Visitor, the Public Health Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health. These classes have been held

with the three first year forms in this school. Visual aids have been used at each talk and there has always been time allowed for group discussion. These have proved to be a stimulating experience from many points of view for the Divisional Medical Officer, Public Health Inspector and Health Visitor, who took part, and we have certainly been able to give up-to-date health information to these children. This course is to be repeated in 1964. The health visitors have also, by invitation in various secondary schools, carried out work on personal hygiene, menstruation and mother-craft. The Divisional Medical Officer and the School Medical Officers have joined in discussions with the headmaster and teaching staffs of various schools, to discuss various aspects of health education, particularly the problem of sex education. Talks were given by various members of the staff in the following schools (a total of 45 talks):

Roundwood Park Secondary School, Harpenden.
Manland Secondary School, Harpenden.
St. Julian's Secondary School, St. Albans.
Roundwood Junior School, Harpenden.
Champions Secondary School, Boreham Wood.
Holmshill Secondary School, Boreham Wood.
Girls' Grammar School, St. Albans.

3. School Meals Staff

Lectures on food hygiene have been given to the whole of the school meals staff in the Division. During school meals staff "Training Days" at Harpenden, St. Albans and Boreham Wood, a lecture on food hygiene and food poisoning and a film on this subject was shown by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspectors of the three districts concerned. At the training kitchen at Beaumont School, Miss Abbott, Health Visitor, and Mr. Croft, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, St. Albans City have given talks on food hygiene to the kitchen staff undergoing training.

REMEDIAL EXERCISES

Miss Chatterton, the County Council's Remedial Therapist, was able to undertake sessions in St. Albans and Boreham Wood Clinics. Children are referred to her by the school doctors. The children, in addition to doing special exercises at the clinic, are taught exercises which they can carry out at home and which they can do at school under the supervision of their Physical Education teacher.

Breathers and Postures	24	Discharged	8	Failed treatment	8
Feet	31				

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

Clinic	New Cases	Old Cases Seen	Total
Wellington Court Dr. Garratt	304	713	1017
Harpenden	64	172	236
Boreham Wood	127	537	664

ORTHOPTIC CLINIC

There were considerably more cases referred to the clinic from the St. Albans Division in 1963 than in 1962, both from the School Eye Clinic and from the City Hospital.

Area from which referred	New Cases	Treatment	Observation	Diagnosis only
St. Albans	68	14	46	8
Harpenden (seen in St. Albans)	28	7	19	2
Rural Areas (seen in St. Albans)	12	8	1	3
Elstree and Boreham Wood	45	16	20	9
TOTAL	153	45	86	22

SPEECH THERAPY

	No. of Cases Referred	No. of Cases Accepted*
Boreham Wood (Elstree Way, Greenacres and Saffron Green)	25	29
Harpenden	17	18
London Colney	10	6
St. Albans	114	106

*This includes those cases which were still on the Waiting list at end of December 1962.

Boreham Wood, Harpenden, London Colney

This year, it has been possible to interview all new cases within a few weeks of referral. Undue anxiety on the part of the parents can often be allayed, and advice is given as to how the parents can best help their child until a regular appointment can be offered.

It was sometimes found that a little spontaneous improvement occurred before the child could be admitted for treatment, and in a few cases treatment was then unnecessary.

Earlier in this year, a small group of pre-school children was formed at Elstree Way Clinic. This was largely made up of children with delayed speech and language, who had little or no opportunity to mix with children of their own age. Treatment aimed at improving sociability and encouraging language development in a relaxed but stimulating environment. The group has now been dissolved, as the children are of school age and treatment either needs to be individual, or is no longer necessary. It is hoped that a similar group will be arranged again shortly.

Attendance on the whole has been good this year, and parents have mostly co-operated in contacting the Clinic when unable to keep appointments.

St. Albans

There has been an increase in the number of children referred to the St. Albans Speech Therapy clinics during 1963.

More pre-school children have been referred during the course of the year. In many cases fairly frequent talks with the parents has proved to be the most beneficial. Once the problems have been discussed and some suggestions and advice about the handling of the speech situation have been given, in many cases the natural anxieties about the child's speech are alleviated. Mothers have also found informal group discussions helpful and re-assuring. Often mothers can gain more insight by talking with other parents whose children are slow in developing speech. More of these discussion groups will be encouraged.

Following the opening of St. Luke's E.S.N. school in the summer it was found a good many of the children had speech defects - some requiring help. Some of these children had already received speech therapy at their previous schools and so continued at their new one. Others had not been seen previously and were thus admitted for treatment during 1963.

Attendance at most clinics in St. Albans has been good. Generally parents attempt to keep all the appointments their children might have and are usually helpful and co-operative with treatment.

PERIPATETIC SERVICE FOR THE DEAF

Number of deaf or partially deaf children in the St. Albans Division who do not attend special schools for the deaf or partially hearing

	<u>Under 5's</u>	<u>Inf.</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boreham Wood	-	2	7	7	16
St. Albans and Harpenden Area	2	-	4	13	19
	2	2	11	20	35

All these children were given auditory training etc. as necessary and their parents and teachers received guidance. Unfortunately this service had to be temporarily suspended in July 1963 on the departure from the County of two of the peripatetic teachers of the Deaf until their replacements took up their appointments in January 1964.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Full-time

Mrs. J.M. Barratt, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Part-time

Mr. D.M. Bain, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Mrs. J.A. Bodenham, L.D.S.

Miss L.M.J. Ewart, L.D.S.

Mrs. S. Falconer, L.D.S.

Mr. S.C. Jack, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Mr. P.C. Perkins, B.D.S.

Mr. J.F. Crawford, L.D.S. (Orthodontist)

Mr. Bain, Mr. Crawford, Miss Ewart and Mr. Perkins are all full-time officers of the County Council who spend part of their time in the St. Albans Division.

The number of sessions worked per week at the various dental clinics at the close of the year was as follows:

Harpenden	3
St. Albans, Mandeville	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Margaret Wix	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Wellington Court	full time
" Skyswood	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

The majority of Orthodontic cases are treated by the Orthodontist who attends the Margaret Wix and Skyswood Clinics for an average of a half session per week and the Wellington Court Clinic for an average of two sessions per week. These sessions are included in the Clinic details set out above.

Inspection and Treatment Figures

Number of children inspected	13,869
" " " found defected	6,834
" " " offered treatment	5,664
" " " treated	2,495
Fillings in Permanent teeth	2,631
Fillings in Temporary teeth	1,289
Extractions in permanent teeth	227
Extractions in temporary teeth	1,417
Administrations of general anaesthetic	837
Other operations	2,253

The statistical tables show that 49% of the children inspected were found defective and that 44% of those offered treatment accepted the offer at the dental clinics within the division.

